

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
PANAMA, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
June 3–5, 2007

PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME I

AG/DEC. 52 - AG/DEC. 56 (XXXVII-O/07)
AG/RES. 2259 - AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07)

CERTIFIED TEXTS OF THE DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

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I hereby certify that this volume contains the official texts of the declarations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its thirty-seventh regular session, held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from June 3 to 5, 2007.

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General
Organization of American States

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AG/DEC. 52 (XXXVII-O/07)

DECLARATION OF PANAMA:
ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), meeting in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on the occasion of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly,

REAFFIRMING the principles and purposes of the OAS Charter, as well as the sovereign right of our countries to the conservation, development, and sustainable use of their energy resources;

REAFFIRMING ALSO our commitments under the OAS Charter and to the principles enshrined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that the exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment, and that it is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations;

RECOGNIZING that energy is an essential resource for the sustainable development of peoples, and that access to energy that is diverse, reliable, secure, and affordable is of paramount importance to economic growth with equity and social inclusion, and contributes to poverty eradication;

AWARE that economic and social development and environmental conservation are complementary, and that they are among the essential goals of the OAS member states;

RECALLING that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed, in paragraph 10, the right to development;

RECOGNIZING the different and valuable existing energy cooperation and integration initiatives in the region, based on solidarity and complementarity;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the importance of generating and strengthening regional markets for the use of cleaner and renewable energy, and of the exchange of information and experiences by member states on the matter;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the adverse effects and challenges of climate change and, accordingly, aware:

- Of the need to promote clean energy through research, development, and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, and international partnerships and/or agreements;

- Of the need to enhance energy efficiency and conservation in the Hemisphere and to promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption; and
- That the transition to a sustainable development model, based on the generation and efficient use of renewable forms of energy and balanced patterns of consumption, will require the implementation of a set of progressive measures and, in that context, that it is important to continue promoting, through the use of cleaner and innovative technologies, a better use of fossil fuels in relation to the environment, given their continued predominant role in the energy matrix;

NOTING that cooperation, partnerships, and/or agreements between the public and private sectors and other sectors of society, in accordance with national law, may help promote the Hemisphere's energy agenda;

RECOGNIZING that energy-sector enterprises should assume and/or deepen social responsibility for the benefit of community development and conservation of the environment;

BEARING in mind that the Fourth Summit of the Americas recommends "favor[ing] the research, development, and adoption of renewable and efficient energy sources and the deployment of technology for cleaner and more efficient energy sources, including among them, those that foster the intensive use of labor, which, together with the promotion of sustainable development, and addressing climate change concerns, permit the reduction of poverty";

UNDERSCORING the relationship between access to energy and the eradication of poverty to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO resolution AG/RES. 2253 (XXXVI-O/06), "Support for the Use of New and Renewable Energy Sources";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the policies and programs promoted by the member states to encourage the use of new and renewable energy sources for sustainable development, such as solar, biomass, including biofuels, wind, tidal, hydroelectric, minihydraulic, and geothermal; and recognizing also the contributions of regional initiatives in the area of energy cooperation;

EMPHASIZING that energy is fundamental to achieving sustainable development objectives and that therefore the combination and complementarity of use of all types of energy sources, including a cleaner use of fossil fuels, contributes to the attainment of those objectives;

CONSIDERING that the hydroresources in the region, *inter alia*, represent an important source for the generation of renewable energy;

NOTING that the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 promotes the strengthening of regional and subregional cooperation on sustainable development, particularly regarding environmental education and awareness, the training and enhancement of human resources, and the creation and strengthening of networks and other cooperation mechanisms; and

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006–2009) (PIDS) mentions, among its areas of action, the development of programs for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency,

DECLARE:

1. Their recognition of the fundamental importance to the member states of the availability of energy resources for the promotion of their economic and social development in an environmentally sustainable manner.

2. Their recognition of the need to obtain and use all forms of energy that are in harmony with life and nature, preserving air, water, and land, which provide indispensable food and habitat for all living beings, and to foster access for the more vulnerable populations, consistent with social and environmental sensitivity.

3. Their resolve to underscore that democratic governance, strong democratic institutions, the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential elements in advancing the energy and sustainable development goals of member states and the region, combating social exclusion, and fostering the public good.

4. Their recognition of the importance of transparency in energy-related government and private-sector activities, as well as underscoring the importance of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption to the states of the Hemisphere and its follow-up mechanism (MESICIC).

5. Their recognition also that the region must endeavor to reduce its vulnerability to fluctuations in the price and supply of energy and seek to increase its energy independence through measures such as the diversification of the energy matrix, favoring an increase in the sustainable use of renewable and cleaner energy or other modalities, as appropriate, in accordance with each country's legislation, improving energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy, and to increase their coverage of energy services for social development purposes.

6. Their need to recognize the potential of biofuels for diversifying the energy matrix of the Hemisphere. Accordingly, they will join efforts to share experiences gained in the region, with a view to achieving maximum efficiency in the sustainable use of those sources to promote social, technological, agricultural, and productive development.

7. Their emphasis that the long-term sustainability of energy supply in the member states depends on the efficient management and development and the sustainable use of natural resources for conversion into innovative and environmentally sound energy applications.

8. Their recognition of the importance of ensuring compatibility among the production of all energy sources, agricultural production, preservation of the environment, and the promotion and defense of decent social and labor conditions, ensuring the role of the Americas as an efficient energy producer.

9. Their resolve to develop and invest in national, subregional, and regional energy infrastructures to facilitate the availability of and access to energy, as well as to protect them and to move toward subregional and regional energy integration. To these ends, they emphasize the advisability, in accordance with national law, of public-private partnerships and/or agreements, giving priority to those favoring our sustainable development.

10. Their support for the efforts toward the sustainable development of the member states, through the use of energy strategies and services recommended in this Declaration that can promote the generation of new productive activities and the introduction of new environmentally sound technologies in matters that concern energy.

11. Their recognition of the need to strengthen economic and technical cooperation at the regional and international levels in the energy sector.

12. Their resolve to join forces in the implementation of energy policies in the Hemisphere to develop projects and initiatives based on solidarity, transparency, cooperation, and complementarity, to promote more prosperous, just, equitable, and inclusive societies.

13. Their recognition of energy integration efforts, including existing experiences, and continued progress in the integration of energy systems and networks, and in the study of the possibility of harmonizing regulations among member states, in order to promote sustainable development and the more efficient and rational use of energy resources and increased marketing of energy products and services among said states.

14. Their determination to increase access by citizens of the member states to efficient energy services; and to emphasize that the use of energy for household purposes and for small-scale productive activities contributes to improving living conditions and fighting poverty.

15. Their recognition of the need for member states to draw upon their experiences and those of multilateral organizations to promote synergy among specific programs on the use of energy for sustainable development and to study possible innovative funding and cooperation mechanisms.

16. Their recognition of the importance of multilateral lending and cooperation agencies for promoting new and innovative financing mechanisms and advisory services aimed at fostering renewable energy and access to new cleaner technologies as well as the more efficient use of existing programs and the use of special funds created with voluntary contributions from donors.

17. Their recognition also of the efforts of those countries that, on the basis of the implementation of new financing modalities, promote sustainable development, the use of renewable energy, cleaner energy, and environmental protection, in particular for those areas that are rich in biodiversity.

18. Their recognition also of the contribution of private-sector participation, in accordance with national laws and policies, in the development of traditional and new energy sources and in the installation of national and international distribution systems and networks.

19. Their recognition of the urgent need to take measures, mostly in the transportation and industry sectors, for the use of cleaner and more efficient technologies, the better use of existing technologies, and the use of less polluting fuels, bearing in mind also the need to promote the participation of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, including cooperatives and other production units, to contribute to this effort.

20. Their recognition of the importance of promoting the development of cleaner and more efficient technologies conducive to the greater use of renewable and less polluting energy in public and private transportation, as well as of promoting an expanded use of public transportation with said technologies, both to increase the efficient use of energy and to reduce its environmental impact.

21. Their commitment to encourage the input of financial resources, including those of the private sector, with the aim of promoting the dissemination and transfer of environmentally sustainable technologies, and capacity-building.

22. Their encouragement of an efficient energy resource management that reflects what is required for achieving sustainable development in all the member states, taking into consideration national circumstances.

23. Their request that the General Secretariat, in coordination with other institutions and experts:

- Continue to promote instructional and training programs for relevant actors in the public and private energy sectors, taking into account the possibilities offered by the Scholarship and Training Programs of the OAS and other possible funding sources;
- Maintain, update, and distribute a registry of specialists of the member states who, at the request of the countries of the region, can offer cooperation on energy matters; and
- Support regional dialogue for the creation and strengthening of markets and the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation for sustainable development.

24. Their request to the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to convene an inter-American meeting of national authorities and experts, with the participation of other relevant institutions, before the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, for the discussion of experiences, best practices, and other information relating to the subject of this Declaration that will contribute to the sustainable development of all countries in the Hemisphere, and to create a Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CIDI to determine the meeting's agenda.

25. Their request to the General Secretariat of the OAS to promote the support and synergy of states, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and the academic community, to promote the contents of this Declaration of Panama, and to report on a regular basis to the Permanent Council and to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development.

26. Their appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Panama for their warm hospitality during the thirty-seventh regular session of the OAS General Assembly.

AG/DEC. 53 (XXXVII-O/07)

THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING its repeated statements that the Question of the Malvinas Islands is a matter of enduring hemispheric concern;

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 928 (XVIII-O/88), adopted by consensus on November 19, 1988, in which it requested the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute;

BEARING IN MIND that in its resolution AG/RES. 1049 (XX-O/90), it expressed satisfaction over the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries;

RECOGNIZING that the accreditation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, under CP/RES. 655 (1041/95), as a permanent observer of the Organization of American States (OAS) reflects principles and values shared by that country and OAS member states, which facilitate greater mutual understanding;

NOTING with satisfaction that the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland maintain important political, cultural, and trade ties, share common values, and are also engaged in close cooperation both bilaterally and in international forums;

BEARING IN MIND that, despite those ties and shared values, it has not yet been possible to resume the negotiations between the two countries with a view to solving the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in the framework of resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19, and 43/25 of the United Nations General Assembly, the decisions adopted by the same body on the same question in the Special Committee on Decolonization, and the repeated resolutions and declarations adopted by this General Assembly; and

HAVING HEARD the presentation by the head of delegation of the Argentine Republic,

WELCOMES the reaffirmation of the will of the Argentine Government to continue exploring all possible avenues towards a peaceful settlement of the dispute and its constructive approach towards the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands.

REAFFIRMS the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume, as soon as possible, negotiations on the sovereignty dispute, in order to find a peaceful solution to this protracted controversy.

DECIDES to continue to examine the Question of the Malvinas Islands at its subsequent sessions until a definitive settlement has been reached thereon.

AG/DEC. 54 (XXXVII-O/07)

DECLARATION ON THE PEACE EFFORTS IN COLOMBIA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

The member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) express their support for the efforts being made by the Colombian state to achieve a conclusive peace and security in that country.

They note the actions undertaken by the Government of Colombia, which are intended to facilitate the release of kidnapped persons still being held by outlaw groups, and likewise they urge those groups to release them.

They reiterate their support for the verification work being carried out by the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OAS).

AG/DEC. 55 (XXXVII-O/07)

COORDINATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE HEMISPHERE IN RESPONSE TO
NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AND
POVERTY–WHITE HELMETS INITIATIVE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), meeting in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on the occasion of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly,

UNDERSCORING the importance that the international community attaches to the development of effective national, regional, subregional, and international mechanisms for dealing with natural disasters, as well as the need for proper coordination to ensure timely and appropriate responses to crises;

RECOGNIZING that the development of the White Helmets Initiative contributes to efforts to alleviate critical situations of hunger and poverty in the Hemisphere, and has assisted populations afflicted by natural and other disasters, by promoting an effective and appropriate transition from emergency aid to recovery, reconstruction, and development;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION resolutions AG/RES. 1351 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1403 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1463 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 2018 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2165 (XXXVI-O/06) and declaration AG/DEC. 45 (XXXV-O/05);

RECALLING that, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Argentina, 2005), the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion; noted with concern the increased intensity of natural and man-made disasters and their devastating impact on human lives, infrastructure, and economies in the Hemisphere; and called for action at the national, regional, and international levels to strengthen disaster management programs;

BEARING IN MIND United Nations General Assembly resolutions 46/182, “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,” including the Guiding Principles contained in its annex, and 61/220, “Participation of volunteers, ‘White Helmets,’ in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development”;

APPRECIATING the establishment and consolidation of the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network, with the participation of Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay, and the interest shown by other member states in joining this regional initiative;

UNDERSCORING that the Special White Helmets Fund is in a position to receive voluntary contributions by member states, permanent observers, the international community, and multilateral organizations, as well as from private sources and individuals that express interest in the White Helmets Initiative and its activities;

UNDERSCORING ALSO that, in 2006 and the first half of 2007, the OAS/IDB/White Helmets Program executed humanitarian assistance projects in Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, and Uruguay within the framework of the Third Call, and organized technical assistance workshops to promote the establishment of national humanitarian volunteer corps in Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago and their coordination in the Hemisphere;

NOTING that in the second half of 2007 the OAS/IDB/White Helmets Program plans to carry out activities in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as in the Belize-Guatemala Adjacency Zone;

CONCERNED by the fact that disasters have repeatedly overwhelmed national capacities and have, on occasion, severely strained existing regional and international coordination mechanisms;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the incorporation of the White Helmets Initiative and the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network into the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation and the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) of the OAS; and

CELEBRATING the interest shown by the White Helmets Initiative and the World Food Programme (WFP) in joining forces to enhance food and nutritional security in the Hemisphere, through cooperation agreements, such as the General Cooperation Agreement between the OAS General Secretariat (GS/OAS) and the WFP and the cooperation agreements between the White Helmets of Argentina and the Regional Office of the WFP in Panama and its country offices in Guatemala and Bolivia,

DECLARE:

1. Their continued support for the White Helmets Initiative as a hemispheric mechanism providing human and technical resources for dealing with humanitarian, social, and developmental emergencies in the region, as well as for providing and facilitating effective responses to disaster situations.

2. Their recognition of the work done in the framework of the OAS/IDB/White Helmets Program and in the strengthening of the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network with technical assistance projects, missions, and workshops.

3. Their satisfaction at the decision taken by the White Helmets of Argentina to join forces with those of the Organization of American States and the World Food Programme in order to engage in joint activities in support of the most vulnerable sectors, and their support for strong cooperation and coordination between the White Helmets and existing United Nations mechanisms and processes.

4. The need to continue making progress with the development of international programs aimed at reducing hunger and poverty and mitigating the effects of disasters, including the cooperation of the White Helmets Initiative and the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network.

AG/DEC. 56 (XXXVII-O/07)

DECLARATION AGAINST THE RESTRICTION ON INTERNATIONAL
SOCCER MATCHES IN CITIES AT ALTITUDES OF
MORE THAN 2,500 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has announced a measure prohibiting the playing of official international soccer matches in stadiums at more than 2,500 meters above sea level;

That the practice of this sport makes an important contribution to health and human well-being and helps bring together diverse peoples from around the globe without exceptions;

That this decision may lead to a bad precedent and, for the peoples of the Hemisphere who inhabit cities at altitudes of more than 2,500 meters above sea level, constitutes a form of restriction on the practice of international soccer; and

That the measure taken by this federation primarily affects the peoples Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru; and

TAKING NOTE of the Declaration of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), dated May 28, 2007, which expressed a position on the matter,

DECLARES:

1. The deep concern of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) over the decision of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), which states that “for medical reasons and to better protect the players’ health international matches should not be played at altitudes of more than 2,500 meters above sea level,” since said decision does not foster sporting practices and affects tourism, integration, and the spirit of fraternity.

2. Its decision to transmit to the Executive Committee of FIFA the recommendation that it reconsider that measure.

3. Its decision to encourage the pertinent national and regional soccer federations to use their good offices to try to induce the FIFA to reconsider the aforementioned measure, in order to ensure the spirit of fraternity that should characterize the playing of soccer as a universal sport.

AG/RES. 2259 (XXXVII-O/07)

STRENGTHENING HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF EFFORTS BY
THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION TO PROMOTE
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2160 (XXXVI-O/06), in which the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) was requested to submit a follow-up report on its activities to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session;

CONSIDERING:

That CITEL is the ideal forum for the coordination, discussion, and harmonization of regional strategies and policies on telecommunications and for the exchange of information in this area, so as to facilitate and promote the ongoing development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere, including information and communication technologies (ICTs); and

That the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEL, held in San José, Costa Rica, adopted the Strategic Plan of CITEL for 2006–2010;

RECALLING:

That, in the Declaration of Santo Domingo: Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the member states of the OAS request that “the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS) continue to support the incorporation of ICTs into national development plans,” and further request the OAS to continue, through its General Secretariat, in particular through its specialized commissions, such as CITEL, coordinating regional efforts to develop initiatives and identify additional resources to provide greater access to ICTs and their use and benefits, thus contributing to bridging the digital divide; and

That, in resolution AG/RES. 2243 (XXXVI-O/06), “Support for the Implementation of the Declaration of Santo Domingo,” the General Assembly urged member states to attach priority to and continue supporting the implementation of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito and, in accordance with that document, to continue adopting policies and regulations that promote the development and expansion of, and access to, infrastructure, especially in rural, remote, and underserved areas; and

RECOGNIZING:

The importance of telecommunications and information and communication technologies for the political, economic, social, and cultural progress of the countries, and that many countries in the

region still do not have the necessary basic infrastructure, or long-term plans, laws, and regulations in force to promote ICT development and use;

The need to promote equitable, affordable, and universal ICT access everywhere so as to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunities for all; and

The wide variety of activities undertaken by CITELE in 2006 to introduce technological advances, develop common positions for the member states of CITELE to take when dealing with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), strengthen dialogue among members of CITELE, and expand training opportunities in order to promote the ongoing development and strengthening of the telecommunication sector in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge authorities of member state governments to continue to promote the development, incorporation, and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs); and to request the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITELE) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to support such efforts.

2. To express its satisfaction with the work of CITELE in the identification of measures to strengthen hemispheric cooperation for the development of telecommunication infrastructure, and in the creation of an important platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences in order to move forward in this area.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to implement the programs and projects set out in the Strategic Plan of CITELE for 2006–2010, especially those referring to the work of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas, promotion of the use of ICTs and the availability of broadband infrastructure, further human resource development and training, and preparation and follow-up of American proposals, positions, and coordinated views for high-level international telecommunication meetings, so as to strengthen the regional position in the international context.

4. To instruct CITELE, with support from the General Secretariat:

- a. To continue reviewing, in the framework of the second phase of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas, the status of telecommunication/ICT services and connectivity;
- b. To identify the sectors with critical deficiencies where priority action is needed; and
- c. To present each year a report to the General Assembly that contains concrete proposals on how best to improve the status of ICTs in the countries, for wide dissemination in the member states, the private sector, and other interested groups.

5. To invite all member states to attach high priority to allocating resources to the telecommunications sector and to step up cooperation between developed and developing countries, as well as among developing countries, with a view to facilitating access to telecommunications infrastructure, especially in rural areas.

6. To urge the Secretary General to include CITELE projects and programs among the priorities presented for the mobilization of external resources.

7. To urge member states and permanent observers, individuals, and national and international public and private entities that so desire, to support and/or participate in ongoing CITELE activities, in accordance with the CITELE Statute, to follow up on their progress, and to make voluntary contributions to support the development and implementation of CITELE projects and programs.

8. To request that the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), invite the Secretariat of CITELE to submit reports periodically on the financial resources needed to implement its mandates.

9. To request CITELE to present to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session a follow-up report on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2260 (XXXVII-O/07)

DISARMAMENT AND NONPROLIFERATION EDUCATION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the section on the Committee on Hemispheric Security;

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 2007 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2109 (XXXV-O/05), "Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education";

BEARING IN MIND the determination of the international community to promote and adopt specific measures to foster a culture of peace and nonviolence in all countries of the world and the significant contribution that disarmament and nonproliferation education can make in adopting such measures;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution 57/60, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 30, 2002, which welcomed the United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education, prepared by the United Nations Secretary-General with the assistance of governmental experts; and taking note of the recommendations contained therein;

RECOGNIZING the valuable contribution of the said United Nations study to world efforts to promote a culture of nonviolence and peace among states;

RECALLING that some of the recommendations of that study are directed at regional organizations, and that the Organization of American States (OAS) can make a significant contribution to the implementation of these recommendations by promoting disarmament and nonproliferation education activities in the Hemisphere;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution 61/73, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 6, 2006, which expressed appreciation to Member States, the United Nations, and other international and regional organizations, civil society, and nongovernmental organizations, which, within their purview, had implemented the recommendations made in the study, and encouraged them once again to continue applying them and to report to the Secretary-General on steps taken to that end; and

BEARING IN MIND the statement contained in the Declaration on Security in the Americas about the role of education for peace in the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate to member states the invitation contained in resolution AG/RES. 2109 (XXXV-O/05) to give consideration to the recommendations contained in the aforementioned United Nations study, in order to strengthen education and training for disarmament and nonproliferation.
2. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue to identify, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, relevant actions that could be implemented by the Organization of American States (OAS) to promote disarmament and nonproliferation education in the Hemisphere.
3. For the purpose set out in the preceding paragraph, to request the Permanent Council to consider the topic at a meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security in which the member states and special guests may express their views thereon, including proposals for action by the OAS and pertinent information on measures taken by member states to promote disarmament and nonproliferation education.
4. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General.
5. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
6. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2261 (XXXVII-O/07)

SUPPORT FOR ACTION AGAINST ANTIPERSONNEL MINES IN ECUADOR AND PERU

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the sections on matters assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security; and

The Report of the General Secretariat on the Implementation of Resolutions AG/RES. 2180 (XXXVI-O/06), "The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone"; and AG/RES. 2181 (XXXVI-O/06), "Support for Action against Antipersonnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru" (CP/CSH/INF.126/07);

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 1644 (XXIX-O/99), operative paragraph 12, urging member states and permanent observers to provide assistance to the national mine-clearing programs being carried out by Ecuador and Peru in their territories;

AWARE that the presence of land mines in border areas between the two countries and in the vicinity of power grids in Peru constitutes a serious threat to civilian populations and stands in the way of economic development in rural and urban areas; and that their elimination constitutes an obligation and prerequisite for the development and integration of peoples, especially in border areas, and helps to consolidate a common strategy for combating poverty;

RECOGNIZING the substantial progress made by Ecuador and Peru in mine-clearing, the destruction of stockpiles, and measures to enhance transparency, and the special importance of humanitarian demining when it is carried out in a joint and consolidated fashion, as in the case of the work being done by the Governments of Ecuador and Peru in their common border area, which has resulted in information exchange and levels of cooperation that constitute an effective mutual confidence-building measure and an avenue toward further integration of their peoples;

AFFIRMING that humanitarian demining contributes to sustainable social and productive development of the border area between Ecuador and Peru, fosters an improved quality of life for population groups living on either side of the border, and facilitates the inclusion of those groups in economic integration programs and activities;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that humanitarian demining in Ecuador and Peru contributes to fulfillment of the multilateral commitments assumed by both countries under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention);

NOTING the corresponding humanitarian demining efforts, as well as the awareness campaigns and assistance to victims in both countries;

RECOGNIZING:

The firm resolve of Ecuador and Peru to honor the commitments undertaken pursuant to the Ottawa Convention;

The complete elimination of antipersonnel mine stockpiles in Ecuador and Peru through assistance under the “Managua Challenge” Fund;

The continued humanitarian demining operations in the Ecuador-Peru border area, the identification of mined areas, the performance of impact studies, the education and awareness campaigns, and the assistance to victims, all of which have made possible the completion of humanitarian demining in the Zarumilla Canal and conclusion of humanitarian demining tasks both in the border area of El Oro-Tumbes and Loja-Piura, in 2004, and in two target areas in the vicinity of the Chira River, Zapotillo sector (Ecuador) and Pampa Larga (Peru), in 2006;

The valuable cooperation being provided by member states, permanent observers, and other countries to national efforts in Ecuador and Peru to forge ahead with their mine-clearing programs;

The financial cooperation from the European Union through the “Antipersonnel Mines Project in the Cordillera del Cóndor, Peru-Ecuador,” which will allow both countries to continue their concerted action against antipersonnel mines in a region of special social and ecological importance;

The important work of coordination, promotion, and fundraising carried out by the General Secretariat through the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA), which is devoted to humanitarian mine-clearing, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims and their families, prevention education, and the social and economic reclamation of demined areas; and

The efficient technical advice and support of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) and the AICMA Program for the mine-clearing activities in Ecuador and Peru, through a group of international monitors selected by the Board and appointed thanks to cooperation from the Governments of Brazil, Chile, Honduras, and Nicaragua;

NOTING the importance attached by the international community to the humanitarian demining process in the Ecuador-Peru border area, which is considered an effective and objective way to promote mutual confidence and, therefore, a contribution to world peace;

NOTING ALSO the spirit of bilateral cooperation in humanitarian demining emphasized by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Peru during the working meeting they held on September 6, 2006, in Quito, and reiterated in the joint communiqué signed by the two foreign ministers on February 22, 2007, in Lima, on which occasions they assessed progress in the Ecuador-Peru humanitarian demining process, pledged to continue coordinating the organization of demining tasks, and reaffirmed the intent of both foreign ministries to work together to secure financial resources to support the process; as well as the joint action in bilateral and multilateral forums,

including, in particular, the Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, held in Geneva in September 2006, and the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), held in Santo Domingo in June 2006, where the region's commitment to eliminate the scourge of antipersonnel mines in the Americas was renewed; and

NOTING FURTHER the Joint Communiqué signed by Ecuador and Peru on October 11, 2006, in the presence of representatives of the European Union, the OAS AICMA Program, and the IADB, in the context of the visit by their delegations, on October 10, 2006, to the area of humanitarian demining operations jointly executed and coordinated in the Condor Mountain Range, which document emphasizes that the demining process they are conducting in Ecuador and Peru is unprecedented at the regional and international levels, is based upon the peace agreements signed by the two countries in Brasilia in 1998, and constitutes a confidence-building measure and a contribution to international peace,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the important work and achievements of the Governments of Ecuador and Peru in destroying their stockpiles and in mine-clearing in common border areas and, in the case of Peru, in other areas of its respective territory, as well as in promoting education on the risks posed by antipersonnel mines in order to continue significantly reducing the number of accidents caused by these devices.

2. To encourage the Governments of Ecuador and Peru to continue their intensive cooperation in the area of mine action as an innovative form of confidence- and security-building, action that could serve as a new means of confidence- and security-building for other countries concerned and generate the political momentum needed to maintain the Hemisphere's global leadership in promoting this essential humanitarian task.

3. Also to encourage the Governments of Ecuador and Peru to continue mine-clearing operations on the border, so that the border area may be free of antipersonnel mines within the time frame estimated by the two countries, with technical advice from the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA) and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).

4. To urge member states, permanent observers, international organizations, and the international community in general to continue providing technical and financial support for continuation of the humanitarian demining program in Ecuador and Peru, which is a successful example of international cooperation in this area.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to cooperate fully, through AICMA, with programs to support comprehensive action against antipersonnel mines in Ecuador and Peru, including work on humanitarian mine-clearing, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims and their families, prevention education, and the social and economic reclamation of demined areas.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat once again to continue to work, through AICMA, on identifying and raising voluntary contributions from member states, permanent observers, and other states, as well as other organizations, to the specific fund intended to continue to finance mine-

clearing and comprehensive action programs against antipersonnel mines carried out by Ecuador and Peru in their respective territories.

7. To request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2262 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROTOCOL OF SAN SALVADOR:
COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP
TO EXAMINE THE PERIODIC REPORTS OF THE STATES PARTIES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1) and resolutions AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 2178 (XXXVI-O/06);

CONSIDERING the provisions of the American Convention on Human Rights, Chapter III of which refers to economic, social, and cultural rights;

UNDERSCORING the entry into force, in November 1999, of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador," and its ratification by 14 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS);

RECALLING that both the American Convention and the Protocol of San Salvador recognize that the essential rights of an individual are not derived from one's being a national of a certain state, but are based upon attributes of the human person;

RECALLING ALSO that, in Article 19 of the Protocol of San Salvador, the states parties undertake to submit, pursuant to the provisions of that article and the corresponding rules to be formulated for that purpose by the OAS General Assembly, periodic reports on the progressive measures they have taken to ensure due respect for the rights set forth in said Protocol;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05) adopted the "Standards for the Preparation of Periodic Reports pursuant to Article 19 of the Protocol of San Salvador," and that AG/RES. 2178 (XXXVI-O/06) instructed the Permanent Council to make proposals as soon as possible, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, on the composition and functioning of the working group established to examine the national reports in accordance with the Standards;

BEARING IN MIND that the states parties to the Protocol presented a "Proposal for the Composition and Functioning of the Working Group," which was considered by the political organs of the Organization; and

RECOGNIZING that the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) urged the member states to consider signing and ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Protocol of San Salvador, and to collaborate in the development of progress indicators in the area of economic, social, and cultural rights,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the document “Composition and Functioning of the Working Group to Examine the National Reports Envisioned in the Protocol of San Salvador,” which is attached hereto.
2. To reiterate its request to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue its work with a view to proposing to the Permanent Council for possible adoption, no later than the third quarter of 2007, the progress indicators to be used for each group of protected rights on which information is to be provided, taking into account, *inter alia*, the contributions of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.
3. To reiterate that the request set forth in operative paragraph 2 of this resolution must be fulfilled before the time periods for submission of the national progress reports to be presented by the states parties to the Protocol of San Salvador begin to run.
4. To urge member states to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “Protocol of San Salvador.”
5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

APPENDIX

COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE NATIONAL REPORTS ENVISIONED IN THE PROTOCOL OF SAN SALVADOR

1. COMPOSITION OF THE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group to Examine the Progress Reports of the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador shall be composed of:

- a. Three government experts elected by the states parties during the session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) from a list of candidates nominated by the states parties, taking into account equitable geographic distribution and rotation. Additionally, an alternate government expert.
- b. One independent expert, who shall be a highly qualified professional with recognized experience in the field, appointed during the OAS General Assembly session by the Secretary General of the Organization from among a list of candidates nominated by the states parties, each country being restricted to one candidate. The candidates shall be academics, members of civil society organizations of the respective country, or members of civil society organizations registered with the OAS; at the time of selection, they may not hold government posts or serve in any branch of government. Additionally, an alternate independent expert.
- c. One member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In addition, one alternate member.

2. GENERAL RULES

- a. The General Secretariat, through the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, shall serve as Technical Secretariat of the Working Group.
- b. Both the government experts and the independent expert shall serve for a three-year term, with the exception of the first term, in which, for the sake of continuity, one of the elected government experts shall be drawn by lot to serve a two-year term, along with the independent expert. In no case may experts be reelected.
- c. No national of the state party whose report is to be examined may participate in the review.
- d. To carry out its mandate, the Working Group may meet for five days every six months at OAS headquarters. When the Group is not in session, it shall conduct its work by electronic or other means.

- e. The states parties' reports and the Working Group's analysis shall be submitted to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), as provided in Article 19 of the Protocol of San Salvador. Each year, the Working Group shall present a report to CIDI for presentation to the OAS General Assembly, with a copy to the Permanent Council, transmitted through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP).

AG/RES. 2263 (XXXVII-O/07)

SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND:

The Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, adopted in Guatemala on June 7, 1999, which entered into force on September 14, 2001, and has been ratified by 17 member states;

Resolution AG/RES. 2167 (XXXVI-O/06), "Establishment of the Committee Provided for in the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities," in which the Secretary General is requested to convene, in accordance with Article VI of that Convention, the first meeting of that Committee; and

Resolution CP/RES. 913 (1577/07), "Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities," in which the offer by the Republic of Panama to host the first meeting of the Committee was accepted;

CONSIDERING that the First Meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities was held on February 28 and March 1, 2007, in Panama City, Republic of Panama; and

HAVING SEEN the report on the First Meeting of the Committee (CEDDIS/doc.28/07),

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction at the installation of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of its Rules of Procedure and of the general guidelines on the content of the reports of the states parties to the Convention; and to encourage the Committee to continue its work of monitoring implementation of the Convention, according to its approved work calendar.

2. To thank the people and Government of the Republic of Panama for their generous hospitality and their decisive and effective support in making the first meeting of the Committee a success.

3. To create a specific fund of voluntary contributions, entitled "Specific Fund for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities," to be administered by the General Secretariat, in order to supplement financing for the activities of the Committee and its Technical Secretariat and to allow for the participation of representatives

appointed by those states parties that, owing to special circumstances, cannot finance such participation.

4. To request the Secretary General to continue, through the Office of International Law, which serves as the Technical Secretariat of the Committee, supporting the tasks assigned to the Committee.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2264 (XXXVII-O/07)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular as it pertains to the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2174 (XXXVI-O/06), “Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law”;

CONSIDERING that in 1996 the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Panama on the Inter-American Contribution to the Development and Codification of International Law [AG/DEC. 12 (XXVI-O/96)], and that in 1997, by resolution AG/RES. 1471 (XXVII-O/97), it adopted the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the General Assembly has reaffirmed its support for said Program through its resolutions AG/RES. 1557 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1617 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1705 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1766 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1845 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1921 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2032 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2070 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2174 (XXXVI-O/06); and

TAKING NOTE:

Of the Report on the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law: Activities of the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs (2006) (CP/CAJP-2452/07);

Of the holding of the XXXIII Course on International Law, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from July 31 to August 25, 2006, and of the Workshops on International Law, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from November 14 to 17, 2006; and

Of the holding of the “First Course on International Humanitarian Law” for staff of the permanent missions of the member states to the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the General Secretariat, organized by the Office of International Law of the General Secretariat and held at OAS headquarters on January 31, 2007,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of, and its support for, the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law; and to request the Department of International Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat to continue carrying out the activities enumerated in the Program.

2. To urge that the General Secretariat, through the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, continue conducting the Workshops on International Law and the Course on International Law in Rio de Janeiro and provide support for activities designed to increase awareness of international law, with special emphasis on the inter-American system, as well as for activities involving the dissemination of legal information and the status of signatures and ratifications of inter-American treaties deposited with the General Secretariat, through publications, electronic media, and the Internet, in all the official languages of the Organization of American States (OAS).

3. To urge the General Secretariat to continue holding workshops through the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs on topics of interest in the field of international law, for the staff of the permanent missions of the OAS member states, General Secretariat personnel, and the general public.

4. To request the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs to continue doing its utmost to disseminate information on the instruments of the inter-American system in diplomatic academies, other training centers for civil servants, and other law schools in the Hemisphere, in the context of the mandates of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law and of the recommendations of the meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, held in January 2006, on how inter-American law is addressed, including the design of a model general course on the inter-American system.

5. To request the Permanent Council to follow up on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2265 (XXXVII-O/07)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2218 (XXXVI-O/06), "Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee"; and

CONSIDERING:

That Article 53 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes the CJI as one of the organs of the Organization;

That Article 54.f of the OAS Charter provides that it is a function of the General Assembly to consider, *inter alia*, the observations and recommendations presented by the Permanent Council on the reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, in accordance with Article 91.f of the Charter; and

That on March 22, 2007, the CJI presented its annual report to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council, and that the Permanent Council has forwarded its observations and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) and to forward them to the Juridical Committee.

2. To thank the CJI for including in its annual report document CJI/doc.190/05 rev. 3, "Legal Aspects of the Interdependence between Democracy and Economic and Social Development," attached to its resolution CJI/RES. 106 (LXVIII-O/06) on this topic, and for including as well resolutions CJI/RES. 104 (LXVIII-O/06) and CJI/RES. 115 (LXIX-O/06), on the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII) and the reports attached to those resolutions.

3. To thank the CJI for forwarding to the Permanent Council resolution CJI/RES. 123 (LXX-O/07), "Right to Information," attached to which is report CJI/doc.25/00 rev. 2, "Right to Information: Access to and Protection of Information and Personal Data in Electronic Format," as requested by resolution AG/RES. 2252 (XXXVI-O/06); and resolution CJI/RES. 125 (LXX-O/07),

“Promotion of the International Criminal Court,” attached to which is report CJI/doc.256/07 rev. 1 on this matter, as requested by resolution AG/RES. 2176 (XXXVI-O/06); and for forwarding to the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance resolution CJI/RES. 124 (LXX-O/07), “The Struggle against Discrimination and Intolerance in the Americas,” attached to which is report CJI/doc.258/07 on this matter, as a contribution to the negotiations in that working group.

4. To request the CJI to include in its next annual report an updated report on the protection of personal data, on the basis of comparative legislation.

5. To underscore once again the importance of holding the Course on International Law, organized each year in Rio de Janeiro by the CJI and the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS); to highlight the importance of increasing the amount of OAS scholarship awards for that course; to urge member states to consider the possibility of paying directly for the participation of students and professors from their own countries; and to recognize the work of the Office of International Law in publishing the lectures given during that course.

6. To reaffirm the importance of the close ties maintained by the CJI with the political organs of the OAS, particularly the Permanent Council; and to recommend to the CJI that it continue to focus its efforts on the matters which the competent organs identify as being of priority interest to the Organization.

7. To emphasize the need to provide increased administrative and budgetary support to the CJI, with a view to adequately addressing the current inter-American legal agenda and issuing the corresponding recommendations, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

8. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2266 (XXXVII-O/07)

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OR OF MINISTERS OR ATTORNEYS GENERAL
OF THE AMERICAS: SUPPORT FOR THE REMJA PROCESS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular as it pertains to the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2228 (XXXVI-O/06), "Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas";

RECALLING that, in the Summits of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government have supported the work done in the context of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJAs) and the implementation of their conclusions and recommendations;

BEARING IN MIND that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas the states of the Hemisphere reaffirmed "that the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) and other meetings of criminal justice authorities are important and effective fora for promoting and strengthening mutual understanding, confidence, dialogue, and cooperation in developing criminal justice policies and responses to address new threats to security";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in resolution AG/RES. 2228 (XXXVI-O/06), the General Assembly decided "[t]o instruct the Permanent Council to provide appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of REMJA-VI and to convene the meetings referred to therein, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the contributions made to cooperation on mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition by the Meeting of Government Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October 2006, and by the workshop on extradition, held in Mexico City, Mexico, in June 2006; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT FURTHER that REMJA-VI, by resolution REMJA-VI/RES. 2/06, decided "[t]o appreciate and accept the generous offer of the Government of the United States to host the Seventh Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, to be held in 2008,"

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction at the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of REMJA-VI, reflected, *inter alia*, in the adoption in October 2006 of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime [resolution CP/RES. 908

(1567/06)]; in the regional training workshops on cybercrime held in Brasilia, Brazil, in December 2006, and in San José, Costa Rica, in April 2007; in the Special Meeting of the OAS/REMJA Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, held in Montreal, Canada, in March 2007; and in the compiling of information on cybercrime, forensic research, and prison and penitentiary issues.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council, to convene, pursuant to the conclusions and recommendations of REMJA-VI and resolution AG/RES. 2228 (XXXVI-O/06) and prior to REMJA-VII, the following meetings, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, taking into account progress already made with respect to preparations for them:

- a. Third Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition;
- b. Second Meeting of Officials Responsible for the Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States;
- c. Meeting of Specialists in Forensic Investigation;
- d. Fifth Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber-crime; and
- e. Technical Meeting to prepare a comprehensive draft document on the REMJA process to be submitted for consideration by REMJA-VII, pursuant to Chapter X.2 of the Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA-VI.

3. To accept with gratitude the offer by Colombia to host the Third Meeting of Central Authorities and Other Experts on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, which will be held in Bogotá, Colombia, in September 2007.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council, pending the adoption by REMJA-VII of the corresponding decisions on the REMJA process referred to in Chapter X of the Conclusions and Recommendations of REMJA-VI, to convene such meetings as are required of the OAS/REMJA Working Group on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, with the technical and administrative support of the OAS General Secretariat, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

5. To convene the Seventh Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VII), to be held in the United States of America in 2008, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; and to instruct the Permanent Council to set a date for that meeting and to proceed with preparations for it, with the support of the Office of Legal Cooperation of the Department of International Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2267 (XXXVII-O/07)

RIGHT TO THE TRUTH^{1/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN its resolution AG/RES. 2175 (XXXVI-O/06), “Right to the Truth”;

CONSIDERING the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, or “Pact of San José, Costa Rica,” the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, and the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons;

CONSIDERING IN PARTICULAR Articles 25, 8, 13, and 1.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights, related, respectively, to the right to judicial protection, the right to due process and judicial guarantees, the right to freedom of expression, and the duty of states to respect and guarantee human rights;

CONSIDERING ALSO the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Additional Protocols thereto, the 2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and other relevant instruments of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

NOTING the universality, interdependence, indivisibility, and interrelatedness of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights;

TAKING NOTE of Articles 32 and 33 of Additional Protocol I, adopted on June 8, 1977, to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, which recognize the right of families, as soon as circumstances permit, to know the fate of persons who have disappeared in armed conflicts;

STRESSING that adequate steps to identify victims should also be taken in situations not amounting to armed conflict, especially in cases of severe or systematic violations of human rights;

RECALLING resolution 2005/66 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, on the right to the truth, and decision 2/105 of the United Nations Human Rights Council;

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1. The Permanent Mission of El Salvador presented a statement in support of this resolution, provided that its content does not affect the peace and national reconciliation agreements based on amnesties called for and negotiated by the parties to the conflict. Said statement appears in the minutes of the session.

RECALLING ALSO its resolution AG/RES. 445 (IX-O/79), on the promotion of human rights, and its resolutions AG/RES. 510 (X-O/80), AG/RES. 618 (XII-O/82), AG/RES. 666 (XIII-O/83), and AG/RES. 742 (XIV-O/84), on forced disappearance;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT its resolution AG/RES. 2134 (XXXV-O/05), on persons who have disappeared, and its resolution AG/RES. 2231 (XXXVI-O/06), on persons who have disappeared and assistance to members of their families;

NOTING that the General Assembly has received reports from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the human rights situation in certain countries of the region, which refer to the right to the truth and recognize that the disappearance of persons causes suffering and hardship, especially to relatives and any other person having a legitimate interest, who are uncertain about their fate and unable to provide them with legal, moral, and material assistance;

NOTING ALSO that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have recognized the right to the truth in their respective recommendations and judgments in various individual cases of human rights violations;

MINDFUL that the right to the truth may be characterized differently in some legal systems as the right to know or the right to be informed or as freedom of information;

TAKING NOTE of the conclusions of the regional seminar “Memory, Truth, and Justice: Our Recent Past,” held in the context of the Meeting of Competent High Authorities on Human Rights and Foreign Ministries of MERCOSUR and Associated States, in November 2005, which recognize the collective dimension of the right to the truth;

STRESSING that the regional community should make a commitment to recognize the right of victims of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, and their families and society as a whole, to know the truth regarding such violations to the fullest extent practicable, in particular the identity of the perpetrators, the causes and facts of such violations, and the circumstances under which they occurred;

STRESSING ALSO that it is important for states to provide effective mechanisms for society as a whole and, in particular, for relatives of the victims, to learn the truth regarding gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law; and

CONVINCED that states, within the framework of their own internal legal systems, should preserve records and other evidence concerning gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, in order to facilitate knowledge of such violations, investigate allegations, and provide victims with access to an effective remedy in accordance with international law, in order to prevent these violations from occurring again in the future, among other reasons,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the importance of respecting and ensuring the right to the truth so as to contribute to ending impunity and to promoting and protecting human rights.

2. To welcome the establishment in several states of specific judicial mechanisms, as well as other non-judicial or ad hoc mechanisms, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, that complement the justice system, to contribute to the investigation of violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law; and to express appreciation for the preparation and publication of the reports and decisions of these bodies.

3. To encourage the states concerned to disseminate and implement the recommendations of national non-judicial or ad hoc mechanisms, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, to monitor the implementation of said recommendations at the domestic level, and to report on compliance with the decisions of judicial mechanisms.

4. To encourage other states to consider the possibility of establishing specific judicial mechanisms and, where appropriate, truth commissions or other similar bodies to complement the justice system, to contribute to the investigation and punishment of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

5. To encourage states and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), within its sphere of competence, to provide the states that so request with necessary and appropriate assistance concerning the right to the truth, through, *inter alia*, technical cooperation and information exchange on national administrative, legislative, and judicial measures applied, as well as experiences and best practices geared toward the protection, promotion, and implementation of this right.

6. To request the IACHR to continue to prepare a report, for presentation to the Permanent Council, on the evolution of the right to the truth in the Hemisphere, which report shall include national mechanisms and experiences in this regard.

7. To encourage all states to take appropriate measures to establish mechanisms or institutions for disclosing information on human rights violations, and to ensure that citizens have appropriate access to said information, in order to further the exercise of the right to the truth, prevent future human rights violations, and establish accountability in this area.

8. To request the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2268 (XXXVII-O/07)

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON TRANSPARENCY IN
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ACQUISITIONS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the section on the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions;

BEARING IN MIND:

That one of the essential purposes of the Organization of American States (OAS) set forth in its Charter is to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states;

That the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions recognizes that, in accordance with the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations, member states have the inherent right to individual and collective self-defense;

That the preamble to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions reiterates the importance of annual reporting to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms of information on imports, exports, military holdings, and procurement through national production of major weapon systems;

The progress achieved by the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms; and

That the Declaration on Security in the Americas recognizes that transparency in conventional weapons acquisitions and in defense policies, the limitation of military spending, while maintaining capabilities commensurate with legitimate defense and security needs, as well as other cooperation mechanisms between countries, are important confidence- and security-building measures which contribute to the reduction of tensions and to the strengthening of regional and international peace and security;

CONSIDERING that, in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the Heads of State and Government declared that they would strive to improve the transparency and accountability of defense and security institutions and promote greater understanding and cooperation among government agencies involved in security and defense issues, through such means as increased sharing of defense policy and doctrine papers and personnel and information exchanges, including improving transparency in arms acquisitions;

NOTING that, in the Declaration of Managua of the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, the Ministers of Defense urged member states that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 2110 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2113 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2188 (XXXVI-O/06), and AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06), in which the General Assembly supported the convocation of the meeting of states parties to the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, to which non-member states would be invited. The resolutions also sought to review implementation of the Convention, to consider activities aimed at promoting signature and ratification of the Convention, and to request the General Secretariat to establish, on the basis of information submitted by states parties, a list of points of contact to participate in the meeting of states parties and also serve as the focal points in their respective countries for complying with the reporting requirements of the Convention and for responding to inquiries regarding the Convention. Finally, the resolutions also urged member states to consider activities aimed at preparing for the first Conference of States Parties, in 2009, pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention; and

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela have deposited their instruments of ratification of the Convention, bringing to 12 the number of OAS member states that are states parties to the Convention,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to the principles of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions and other related instruments applicable at the global, regional, and subregional levels.
2. To invite all member states which have not already done so to consider signing, ratifying, and/or acceding to the Convention.
3. To urge states parties to submit, in a timely fashion, annual reports and notifications in compliance with their obligations under Articles III and IV of the Convention.
4. To request the General Secretariat to prepare as soon as possible, on the basis of the annual reports and the notifications presented, a database for the benefit of the states parties to the Convention. In carrying out this task, the General Secretariat may request support from the Inter-American Defense Board, within the framework of the Board's Statutes.
5. To urge states parties to identify national points of contact by no later than July 15, 2007.
6. To request the Secretary General to identify the office within the General Secretariat responsible for the functioning and application of the Convention and for the periodic dissemination to states parties of pertinent reports, including a list of national points of contact.

7. To urge the General Secretariat to circulate to states parties a collated annual report of information and separate notifications which it has received by June 15 of each year, having preceded the report with a 45-day advance reminder to the national points of contact of the upcoming due date.

8. To request that the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, meet annually to consider the functioning and application of the Convention.

9. To convene a one-day meeting of states parties in 2008 to prepare for the 2009 Conference of States Parties, and to review the functioning and application of the Convention, including a critical analysis of the reporting system with regard to transparency in the acquisition of conventional weapons in the Hemisphere. Invitations would be extended to non-states parties, pertinent regional and international organizations, and civil society organizations, to attend as observers.

10. To request that the General Secretariat, in accordance with Article V of the Convention, contact the permanent observers to the OAS so that they may contribute to the objective of the Convention by providing information annually to the General Secretariat on their exports of conventional weapons to the states parties to the Convention.

11. To invite states parties, non-states parties, permanent observers, regional and international organizations, and civil society organizations interested in transparency in conventional weapons acquisitions to consider the possibility of offering technical assistance to those states that so request and/or making voluntary contributions to support activities related to the application of the Convention.

12. To request the Secretary General to present a report to the Permanent Council prior to the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly on the status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention and of accessions thereto.

13. To request the General Secretariat to consult with the Secretariat of the United Nations on how the mechanisms for the presentation of reports on this subject function and are applied for implementation of the Convention.

14. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

15. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

AG/RES. 2269 (XXXVII-O/07)

THE AMERICAS AS AN ANTIPERSONNEL-LAND-MINE-FREE ZONE^{1/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REITERATING its profound concern over the presence in the Americas of thousands of antipersonnel land mines and other undetonated explosive devices;

BEARING IN MIND:

The serious threat that mines and other unexploded ordnance pose to the safety, health, and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, and rehabilitation programs and operations;

That the presence of mines is a factor that impedes economic and social development in rural and urban areas;

That mines have a humanitarian impact with very serious consequences which are long-lasting and require sustained socioeconomic assistance to victims; and

That their elimination constitutes an obligation and prerequisite for the development and integration of peoples, especially in border areas, and helps to consolidate a common strategy for combating poverty;

RECOGNIZING WITH SATISFACTION:

The efforts being made by member states to implement comprehensive mine-action programs, including activities aimed at mine-risk education, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims, and the socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas;

The mine-free declarations and the efforts made by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Suriname in fulfillment of said declarations;

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1. The “conversion of the Americas into an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone” is incompatible with current United States landmine policy, which clearly states that we will not become a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention). The United States remains committed to humanitarian mine action and to cooperating in practical steps to end the harmful legacy of landmines. The United States will continue to support OAS efforts to eliminate the humanitarian threat of all persistent landmines and declare countries “mine-impact-free.”

The efforts made by Chile to adhere fully to the precepts set forth in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention), including the destruction of all stockpiled mines;

The demining operations carried out in Colombia, a country with one of the world's greatest number of land-mine victims;

The joint, combined efforts by Ecuador and Peru in demining, destruction of stockpiles, and transparency measures;

The sustained effort by Nicaragua to conclude its destruction of antipersonnel mines, which will soon enable it to declare itself a mine-free country in the Hemisphere; its extensive prevention education program aimed at sensitizing children, adolescents, and the general public to mine dangers; and the resolute support it provides for the physical and professional rehabilitation program for mine victims; and

The completion of the destruction of stockpiles and fulfillment of Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention by all the states parties thereto in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING:

The valuable contributions by member states such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela; and by permanent observers such as Austria, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom;

The success of the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA), which for over 15 years has supported humanitarian demining activities and the destruction of explosive devices; and

The important and efficient coordination work of the General Secretariat, through AICMA, together with the technical assistance of the Inter-American Defense Board;

WELCOMING the work of nongovernmental organizations in furthering the aim of a Hemisphere and a world free of antipersonnel land mines, which is often performed in cooperation and association with the states;

HAVING SEEN:

The Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the sections on matters assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security; and

The report of the General Secretariat on the implementation of resolutions AG/RES. 2180 (XXXVI-O/06), "The Americas as an Antipersonnel-Land-Mine-Free Zone," and AG/RES. 2181 (XXXVI-O/06), "Support for Actions against Antipersonnel Mines in Ecuador and Peru";

RECALLING the 18 OAS General Assembly resolutions from 1997 to 2005 directly relating to antipersonnel landmines, which were referenced individually in resolution AG/RES. 2180 (XXXVI-O/06) and adopted by consensus by all the member states;

RECALLING ALSO that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City on October 28, 2003, the states of the Hemisphere reaffirmed their support for establishing the Hemisphere as an antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone; and

TAKING NOTE of the successful outcome of the Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention held from September 18 to 22, 2006, in Geneva, and the naming of Peru and Canada as the Ottawa Convention co-rapporteurs for mine clearance,

RESOLVES:

1. To renew its support for the commitment of member states to strive jointly to rid their territories of landmines and destroy their stockpiles and to convert the Americas into the world's first antipersonnel-land-mine-free zone as soon as possible, with Central America mine-free by the end of 2008.

2. To stress the responsibility of all member states to continue their vital cooperation in mine action as a national and regional priority, as well as a means to promote confidence and security, and to develop statements of remaining goals, contribute resources, and collaborate with the Mine Action Team of the Organization of American States (OAS).

3. To urge the international donor community to continue its support for the comprehensive hemispheric humanitarian task which is still being waged in victim rehabilitation in Guatemala, El Salvador, and other countries, and in ongoing demining activities in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Peru.

4. To firmly condemn, in accordance with the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel mines by non-state actors, acts which put at grave risk the population of the affected countries; and to reaffirm that progress toward a mine-free world will be facilitated if non-state actors observe the international norm established by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention).

5. To celebrate the support of 33 member states of the Hemisphere through ratification of the Ottawa Convention; and to encourage the Governments of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Peru to continue working in the area of mine action, in accordance with said Convention and with their mine action plans.

6. To urge member states which have not yet done so to ratify or consider acceding to the Ottawa Convention as soon as possible to ensure its full and effective implementation.

7. To call upon all states parties and non-states parties that share the objectives of the Ottawa Convention to take all necessary action, at the national, regional, and international levels, to implement the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009.

8. To reiterate the importance of participation by all member states in the OAS Register of Antipersonnel Land Mines by April 15 of each year, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 1496 (XXVII-O/97); and to commend member states which have regularly submitted their reports to that end.

9. To encourage member states that are party to the Ottawa Convention to provide to the Secretary General as part of their submissions to the OAS Register of Antipersonnel Land Mines, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 1496 (XXVII-O/97), a copy of their Ottawa Convention Article 7 transparency reports; and to further encourage member states which are not yet party to the Ottawa Convention to provide similar information with their annual submissions.

10. Once again to urge member states which have not yet done so to become party as soon as possible to the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and to the four protocols thereto; and to request member states to inform the Secretary General when they have done so.

11. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to provide member states, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, with the support necessary to continue the mine-clearing programs, prevention education programs for the civilian population, and programs for the rehabilitation of victims and their families and for the socioeconomic reclamation of demined areas.

12. To request the Inter-American Defense Board to continue to provide technical advice to the Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (AICMA).

13. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General and to other international organizations as he deems appropriate.

14. To request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2270 (XXXVII-O/07)

CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the section on the matters entrusted to the Committee on Hemispheric Security;

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1121 (XXI-O/91) and AG/RES. 1123 (XXI-O/91), on strengthening peace and security in the Hemisphere; AG/RES. 1179 (XXII-O/92), AG/RES. 1237 (XXIII-O/93), AG/RES. 1284 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1288 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1353 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1409 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1494 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1566 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1623 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1744 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1801 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1879 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1967 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1996 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2113 (XXXV-O/05), on transparency and confidence- and security-building measures in the Americas (CSBMs); and AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06), "Cooperation on Some Matters of Security in the Hemisphere";

TAKING NOTE of the Chairman's Conclusions of the First Meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, held in Washington, D.C., on April 25 and 26, 2005 (CSH/FORO-I/doc.11/05); and the Rapporteur's Report of the Second Meeting of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, held in Washington, D.C., on November 29, 2006 (CSH/FORO-II/doc.11/06 corr. 1);

TAKING NOTE ALSO of United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/79, "Exchange of information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms"; and

CONSIDERING:

That in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City, Mexico, in October 2003, member states affirmed that "[c]onfidence- and security-building measures and transparency in defense and security policies contribute to increasing stability, safeguarding hemispheric and international peace and security, and consolidating democracy," and recommended that the Committee on Hemispheric Security meet periodically as the "Forum for Confidence- and Security-Building Measures" in order to review and evaluate existing confidence- and security-building measures and, if appropriate, consider new measures that would make it possible to ensure progress in this area; and

That, in the Declaration of Managua of the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, member states reaffirmed the fundamental importance of adopting and implementing confidence and security-building measures of the Organization of American States for strengthening

bilateral, subregional, and hemispheric relations, contributing to international stability, peace, cooperation, and security,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to continue implementing, in the manner they deem most appropriate, the recommendations contained in the Declaration of Santiago and the Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and in the Consensus of Miami: Declaration by the Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures: Recommendations to the Summit-Mandated Special Conference on Security.

2. To commend member states that have regularly submitted their reports on the application of the confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) contained in the above-mentioned Declarations and Consensus; and to urge all member states to provide or continue to provide reports and information on the application of CSBMs to the General Secretariat, by July 15 of each year.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to convene the Third Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, to meet in the second half of 2007, to examine the application of confidence- and security-building measures throughout the region and consider next steps.

4. To establish the goal of universal participation by all member states, by 2010, in the United Nations (UN) Register of Conventional Arms and the UN Standardized International Reporting of Military Expenditures; and to renew its request that member states provide said information to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) by July 15 of each year.

5. To encourage member states to share bilateral and subregional experiences regarding the development of standardized methodologies for measuring military expenditures and inform the Forum on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures of the results of those experiences.

6. To urge member states to generate additional trust and transparency through the development and exchange of defense white papers by all OAS member states, taking into account the guidelines adopted by the Permanent Council in its resolution CP/RES. 829 (1342/02), "Adoption of the Guidelines on Developing National Defense Policy and Doctrine Papers."

7. To request the General Secretariat to make available to member states a secure communication network for the instantaneous exchange of information and notifications on confidence- and security-building measures.

8. To request the General Secretariat to update each year, on the basis of information submitted by member states each year by July 1, the Roster of Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, and to circulate it to the member states each year by July 30.

9. To request the General Secretariat to continue to contribute to greater confidence-building and transparency by improving the Committee on Hemispheric Security Website in order to facilitate access to member states' reports and by sending periodic notes verbales on approaching reporting deadlines.

10. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF), and other pertinent regional organizations.

11. To instruct the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat, as appropriate, to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

12. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2271 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
WHILE COUNTERING TERRORISM

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1840 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1906 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1931 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2035 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2143 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2238 (XXXVI-O/06), and the Report on Terrorism and Human Rights, prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) (OEA/Ser.L/V/II.116 - Doc.5 rev. 1);

REAFFIRMING the principles and purposes of the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations;

EMPHASIZING that all persons are born free and are entitled to the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or other status, and that this applies in all circumstances, in accordance with international law;

REITERATING that all persons are equal before the law and have the rights and duties established in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

REAFFIRMING that states are under the obligation to protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons;

RECOGNIZING that respect for all human rights, respect for democracy, and respect for the rule of law are interrelated and mutually reinforcing;

CONSIDERING that terrorism poses a serious threat to the security, the institutions, and the democratic values of states and to the well-being of our peoples, and that it impairs the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights;

REAFFIRMING that acts, methods, and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms, and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of states and destabilizing legitimately constituted governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism;

REAFFIRMING ALSO its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, as criminal and unjustifiable; and renewing its commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That, in the Declaration of San Carlos on Hemispheric Cooperation for Comprehensive Action to Fight Terrorism, adopted on March 24, 2006, and the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism, adopted on March 1, 2007, the member states reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its origin or motivation, has no justification whatsoever, affects the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights, and constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security, the institutions and values of democracy, and the stability and prosperity of the countries of the region;

That, in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, the states of the Hemisphere renewed their commitment, reiterated in the Declaration of San Carlos and Declaration of Panama, to fight terrorism and its financing, with full respect for the rule of law and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001);^{1/} and

That, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas and the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government agreed to take all necessary steps to prevent and counter terrorism and its financing, in full compliance with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law;

WELCOMING the fact that the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism came into force on July 10, 2003; and that to date 22 countries have ratified it;

CONSIDERING the report of the Meeting of Government Experts to Exchange, from a Human Rights Perspective, Best Practices and National Experiences in Adopting Antiterrorism Measures, held on February 12 and 13, 2004 (CP/CAJP-2140/04);

HAVING RECEIVED the document entitled “Recommendations for the Protection of Human Rights by OAS Member States in the Fight against Terrorism” (CP/doc.4117/06), prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which complements the IACHR’s Report on Terrorism and Human Rights, dated October 22, 2002 (OEA Ser.L/V/II.116. Doc. 5 rev. 1);

1. The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates the reservation it made on adopting the Declaration of Panama, on March 2, 2007, at the Seventh Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE).

REAFFIRMING:

That, in the fight against terrorism, any detained person presumed to be involved in a terrorist act will enjoy the rights and guarantees provided by applicable international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

That the means the state can use to protect its security or that of its citizens in the fight against terrorism should, under all circumstances, be consistent with applicable international law, in particular international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law; and

That terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, or ethnic group;

RECALLING that, under Article 27 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it is recognized that some rights are non-derogable under any circumstances, and that, with respect to rights that may be subject to derogation, states may take measures derogating from their obligations under these Conventions to the extent and, with respect to the American Convention, for the period of time strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with the other rights and obligations prescribed under international law; and emphasizing that, in the inter-American system, the protection of non-derogable rights includes essential judicial guarantees for their protection; and

DEEPLY DEPLORING the occurrence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of the fight against terrorism, as well as violations of international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that the fight against terrorism must be waged with full respect for the law, including compliance with due process and human rights comprised of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as for democratic institutions, so as to preserve the rule of law and democratic freedoms and values in the Hemisphere.

2. To reaffirm that all member states have a duty to ensure that all measures adopted to combat terrorism are in compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law.

3. To urge all member states, with a view to fulfilling the commitments undertaken in this resolution, to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be and as soon as possible, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and the American Convention on Human Rights; and to urge the states parties to take appropriate steps to implement the provisions of those treaties.

4. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to continue promoting respect for and the defense of human rights and facilitating efforts by member states to comply appropriately with their international human rights commitments when developing and executing counterterrorist measures, including the rights of persons who might be at a disadvantage, subject to discrimination, or at risk as a result of terrorist violence or counterterrorist initiatives, and to report to the Permanent Council on the advisability of conducting a follow-up study.

5. To request that the Permanent Council, having received the document entitled “Recommendations for the Protection of Human Rights by OAS Member States in the Fight against Terrorism” (CP/doc.4117/06), prepared by the IACHR, hold consultations with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and with member states, so as to conclude the process provided for in resolution AG/RES. 2143 (XXXV-O/05), operative paragraph 5, for preparing recommendations.

6. On the basis of the Recommendations for the Protection of Human Rights by OAS Member States in the Fight against Terrorism, prepared by the IACHR, and the outcome of the consultations with CICTE and the member states, the Permanent Council may consider preparing draft common terms of reference for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism, that would compile current international standards based on applicable international law, as well as best practices, for consideration by the General Assembly.

7. To reiterate the importance of intensifying dialogue among CICTE, the IACHR, and other pertinent areas of the Organization, with a view to improving and strengthening their ongoing collaboration on the issue of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

8. To urge member states to respect, in accordance with their obligations, the human rights of all persons deprived of their liberty in high-security detention centers, particularly observance of due process.

9. To reaffirm that it is imperative that all states work to uphold and protect the dignity of individuals and their fundamental freedoms, as well as democratic practices and the rule of law, while countering terrorism.

10. To request the Permanent Council to present a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2272 (XXXVII-O/07)

SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS) (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), particularly the Annual Report of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) to the General Assembly (CP/doc.4201/07);

REITERATING the commitments undertaken in resolutions AG/RES. 1650 (XXIX-O/99), “Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism”; AG/RES. 1734 (XXX-O/00), “Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism”; and AG/RES. 1789 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1877 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1964 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2051 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2137 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2170 (XXXVI-O/06), “Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism”;

REAFFIRMING that terrorism, whatever its form or manifestation and whatever its origin or motivation, has no justification whatsoever, is inimical to the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights, and poses a grave threat to international peace and security, institutions, and the democratic values enshrined in the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and other regional and international instruments;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the holding of the Seventh Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism in Panama City, Panama, from February 28 to March 2, 2007, the adoption of the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism, and CICTE’s decision to hold a meeting of experts on the security of tourism and recreational facilities in the Americas;^{1/}

NOTING that in that Declaration the member states stated that “critical infrastructure refers, inter alia, to those facilities, systems, and network and physical or virtual (IT) services and equipment, the disabling or destruction of which would have a severe impact on populations, public health, security, economic activity, the environment, democratic governance, or the ability of the government of a Member State to operate effectively” and that they recognized the Panama Canal as an example of critical infrastructure for the Hemisphere;

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, because it regards it as criminal and unjustifiable, and, for reasons of principle, enters a reservation concerning adoption of the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism, as it considers that said Declaration does not contain the elements needed for comprehensive consideration of the topic of terrorism. The grounds for our position are set forth in document CICTE/DEC. 1/07.

WELCOMING the offers made by the Government of the Republic of Panama, in its capacity as Chair of CICTE, to hold, *inter alia*, an International Conference on Secure Trade and Transportation, a Forum between CICTE and Inter-American Civil Society, and a Training Program for Judges and Prosecutors on enforcement of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and international conventions for combating terrorism (CICTE/INF.5/07);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that at the aforementioned seventh regular session of CICTE the decision was made to establish an open-ended working group to conduct a substantive review of the CICTE Work Plan;

RECALLING the need to confront terrorism through sustained cooperation, with full respect for the obligations that international law imposes, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law;

REAFFIRMING that the fight against terrorism demands the broadest possible cooperation among the member states and coordination among international and regional organizations, in order to prevent, punish, and eliminate terrorism in all its forms;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, and Uruguay ratified the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism in 2006 and 2007, and that other countries not yet party to this Convention have nonetheless made important headway;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION ALSO the holding of the fifth meeting of CICTE's National Points of Contact, in Panama City, Panama, on February 28, 2007, and the strengthening of the National Points of Contact Network to facilitate and improve information exchange and to share best practices for cooperation in the fight against terrorism in the Hemisphere; and

WELCOMING the recently adopted United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, of September 8, 2006 (document A/RES/60/288), which calls for the intensification of all activities designed to improve the security and protection of particularly vulnerable targets, such as critical infrastructure and public places, and which builds on many of the elements proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General in his report of April 27, 2006, to the United Nations General Assembly, entitled "Uniting against terrorism: Recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy" (document A/60/825),

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its most vigorous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as criminal and unjustifiable under any circumstances, in any place, and regardless of who perpetrates it, and because it poses a grave threat to international peace and security, and to the democracy, stability, and prosperity of the countries of the region.

2. To endorse the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism, adopted by the members of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) at its seventh regular session; and to encourage the member states to implement the commitments contained therein.^{2/}

2 See footnote 1.

3. To acknowledge that terrorism is a threat to critical infrastructure; and to express the commitment of member states to take all necessary actions, in accordance with domestic laws and relevant international agreements, to prevent, mitigate, and deter potential terrorist threats to critical infrastructure in the Hemisphere, through the development and implementation of national measures and the strengthening of regional and international cooperation.

4. To reiterate that it is important for the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to sign, ratify, implement, and continue implementing, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, as well as pertinent regional and international conventions and protocols, including the 13 international conventions and protocols and United Nations Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1566 (2004), 1617 (2005), and 1624 (2005), in order to find, deny safe haven to, and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates, or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation, or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.

5. To call upon those member states that have not yet done so to ratify the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and to implement it effectively.

6. To express its abiding commitment to fight terrorism and the financing thereof with full respect for the rule of law and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

7. To express its satisfaction with the progress made by member states in the adoption of effective measures to prevent, combat, and eradicate terrorism; and to underscore the need to continue strengthening their application and that of cooperation mechanisms in the fight against terrorism at the bilateral, subregional, regional, and international levels.

8. To reiterate its satisfaction with the work of CICTE in identifying immediate and longer-term measures needed to strengthen hemispheric cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism, including technical assistance provided to states that request it in order to comply with their obligations under the various binding international instruments, in accordance with the CICTE Work Plan.

9. To encourage the work of the Working Group on the CICTE Work Plan, established at the aforementioned Seventh Regular Session of the CICTE, which will meet at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat, in Washington, D.C., as part of the preparatory process for the Eighth Regular Session of the Committee.

10. To instruct the CICTE Secretariat to implement the programs and projects listed in the CICTE Work Plan for 2006–2007, in particular those that involve the protection of critical infrastructure; international cooperation; measures to prevent, control, and punish terrorist financing through training programs for those officers of the law and the courts charged with investigating, prosecuting, and punishing these crimes; assistance in carrying out the Nine Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF); assistance in creating and launching Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in those countries

where they do not yet exist; the Program for the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities in the Americas (ITRS); measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring biological, chemical, and nuclear materials; and technical assistance to improve the quality of travel documents and similar documents and the corresponding security measures.

11. Once again to thank the member states and permanent observers that have contributed human and other resources to CICTE's Secretariat to help implement the CICTE Work Plan.

12. Once again to call upon member states, permanent observers, and pertinent international organizations to provide, maintain, or increase, as appropriate, their voluntary contributions of funding and/or human resources to CICTE to enable it to perform its functions and enhance its programs and areas of activity.

13. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue providing, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, administrative and any other support needed for the CICTE Secretariat, including support for the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE, scheduled to be held at the headquarters of the OAS General Secretariat, in Washington, D.C., in the first quarter of 2008, including the three preparatory meetings for that regular session and those required for the Working Group on the CICTE Work Plan; for the sixth meeting of CICTE's National Points of Contact, which will take place in conjunction with that regular session; and for the upcoming Meeting of Experts on the Security of Tourism and Recreational Facilities.

14. To request the Chair of CICTE to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2273 (XXXVII-O/07)

INTER-AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY^{1/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the section on the Committee on Hemispheric Security;

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1747 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1791 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1876 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1938 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2008 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2111 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2186 (XXXVI-O/06), “Inter-American Support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”;

RECOGNIZING that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation measure; and convinced that this is a meaningful step in the realization of a systematic and gradual process to achieve nuclear disarmament;

AFFIRMING that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) constitutes the cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime;

BEARING IN MIND:

That paragraph 9 of the Joint Ministerial Statement in support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), issued at United Nations headquarters on September 20, 2006, appeals to all states to make maximum efforts toward the early entry into force of the Treaty;

The commitment by nuclear-weapon member states to undertake effective measures aimed at nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and the unequivocal commitment to the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals to achieve this objective, adopted at the Sixth NPT Review Conference, in 2000; and

The valuable contribution of the CTBT to the consolidation and maintenance of international peace and security;

REAFFIRMING the need for universal adoption of the CTBT, negotiated within the United Nations framework;

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1. The United States does not support the CTBT and does not intend to become a party to it. The United States will continue to work, as appropriate, with working groups of the CTBTO PrepCom and with its Provisional Technical Secretariat on the International Monitoring Systems (IMS) and IMS-related activities. The United States continues to observe its nuclear testing moratorium and has no plans to conduct a nuclear explosive test.

NOTING that the CTBT has, thus far, been signed by 30 member states of the Organization of American States and ratified by 25 of them; and, in particular, that it has now been ratified by six of the eight states of the Hemisphere whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force;

RECALLING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas the states of the Hemisphere reaffirmed their commitment to arms control, disarmament, and the nonproliferation of all weapons of mass destruction;

TAKING NOTE of the seminar promoting ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the Caribbean, held in Mexico City, from October 11 to 13, 2006; and

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the Twelfth Introductory Course on On-Site Inspections (IC-12), held in Brasilia from April 22 to 28, 2007, organized by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (OCTBT) and sponsored by the Ministry of Defense of Brazil, with the aim of strengthening the institutional capacity of countries of Latin America for full implementation of the Treaty,

RESOLVES:

1. To call upon those states of the Hemisphere that have not yet done so to implement the "Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)," adopted in the framework of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, in September 2005.

2. To call upon the states of the Hemisphere also to make a positive contribution, through actions to bring about the prompt entry into force of the CTBT, to the preparations for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, for which the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee was held in Vienna, Austria, from April 30 to May 11, 2007.

3. To call upon all states of the Hemisphere to attend and participate fully in the next Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, scheduled to take place in Vienna, Austria, on September 17 and 18, 2007.

4. To call upon those states of the Hemisphere that have not yet done so, in particular the states listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty, to sign and/or ratify the CTBT, as the case may be, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible.

5. To promote, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, cooperation between the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the member states experiencing difficulties in ratifying the CTBT, in order to make progress in the number of ratifications required for this instrument to enter into force.

6. To encourage greater regional efforts to promote the signature and ratification of the CTBT by all states of the Hemisphere.

7. To call upon the states of the Hemisphere to refrain, even before the Treaty comes into force, from contravening the spirit of the obligations set forth therein, and to maintain, in particular, the moratorium on all kinds of nuclear tests, in accordance with the commitments undertaken during the NPT Review Conference held in 2000.

8. To invite all the states of the Hemisphere, particularly those with International Monitoring System facilities, to support and implement the CTBT's verification regime when the Treaty enters into force.

9. To entrust the Permanent Council with holding, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security, a special meeting, in the first half of 2008, to review the regional cooperation mechanisms of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO to promote the full force and effect of the CTBT and to forge national capabilities for applying it, and the possible benefits of civil and scientific applications of the technologies used in the Treaty's International Monitoring System, and to move forward toward its implementation once the CTBTO enters into force, as well as to review the new challenges to be faced by the nuclear test ban regime, with the participation of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the United Nations, the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO, and other international institutions with competence in this area.

10. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

11. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

12. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General, the Secretary General of OPANAL, and the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO.

AG/RES. 2274 (XXXVII-O/07)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON SECURITY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the section on the matters entrusted to the Committee on Hemispheric Security;

RECALLING the decisions of the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the Special Conference on Security (Mexico City, 2003), the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, Mexico, 2004), and the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005), and the mandates issued in General Assembly resolutions in connection with the Special Conference on Security, especially resolution AG/RES. 2185 (XXXVI-O/06), "Follow-up to the Special Conference on Security";

RECALLING ALSO that the Declaration on Security in the Americas states that "[o]ur new concept of security in the Hemisphere is multidimensional in scope, includes traditional and new threats, concerns, and other challenges to the security of the states of the Hemisphere, incorporates the priorities of each state, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development, and social justice, and is based on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defense of human rights, solidarity, cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty";

REAFFIRMING the commitment to revitalize and strengthen the organs, institutions, and mechanisms of the inter-American system related to the various aspects of hemispheric security, to achieve greater coordination and cooperation among them, within their areas of competence, in order to improve the ability of the states of the Americas to meet the traditional threats, as well as the new threats, concerns, and other challenges to hemispheric security;

RECALLING that at its thirty-second special session the General Assembly adopted the Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), which established the legal and institutional relationship between the Organization of American States and the IADB;

TAKING NOTE of the establishment of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and of the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, as part of the General Secretariat's efforts to strengthen its capacity to better serve the member states and the political organs of the Organization with respect to hemispheric security; and

WELCOMING the progress made within member states, as reported at the meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security to review progress in implementing the Declaration on Security in the Americas, held in Washington, D.C., on March 20, 2007,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all member states to continue implementing the Declaration on Security in the Americas, with a view to consolidating peace, stability, and security in the Hemisphere.
2. To request the Permanent Council to continue, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security:
 - a. Coordinating cooperation among the organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms of the Organization of American States (OAS) related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere, respecting the mandates and areas of competence of each, in order to achieve the application, evaluation, and follow-up of the Declaration on Security in the Americas;
 - b. Maintaining the necessary liaison with other institutions and mechanisms, whether subregional, regional, or international, related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere, respecting the mandates and areas of competence of each, in order to achieve the application, evaluation, and follow-up of the Declaration;
 - c. Requesting, with the periodicity deemed appropriate, reports on measures and action related to implementation of the Declaration from the following inter-American and international bodies:
 - i. OAS organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere; and
 - ii. Other subregional, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere;
 - d. Conducting an ongoing assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Declaration at the national, subregional, regional, and international levels, taking into account the particular circumstances of each subregion and state, with the participation of the organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms of the OAS, relevant international and subregional organizations, and, when appropriate, civil society, to be reflected in the annual report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly;
 - e. Preparing, in coordination with the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, including among others the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), coordinated strategies and integrated action plans related to the new threats, concerns,

and other challenges to hemispheric security, in accordance with the Declaration on Security in the Americas;

- f. Considering in its work plans and, when appropriate, in developing coordinated strategies and integrated action plans, the recommendations formulated by specialized meetings and conferences of the inter-American system related to the subject of security in the Hemisphere; and
- g. Considering in its work related to the new threats, concerns, and other challenges to hemispheric security, the contributions and cooperation of civil society in this area, where appropriate.

3. To request the Permanent Council to convene, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, a meeting in the first half of 2008 to coordinate preparations by member states for commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, which will be held in Mexico during the last quarter of 2008.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution and to present any recommendations it deems appropriate.

AG/RES. 2275 (XXXVII-O/07)

FOLLOW-UP ON THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND
THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR COOPERATION
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1) with regard to this topic;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 2219 (XXXVI-O/06) and AG/RES. 2222 (XXXVI-O/06);

CONSIDERING the importance of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the fact that it has been ratified by 33 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), and that 28 of those states participate in the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC);

BEARING IN MIND the mandates of the Summits of the Americas with respect to the fight against corruption, implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and strengthening of its follow-up mechanism (MESICIC);

RECOGNIZING the work of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC, which has been supported by the General Secretariat with a view to initiating in December 2006 the second round of review for the 28 states parties; and

UNDERSCORING the results of the Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, held in Washington, D.C., on November 20 and 21, 2006, and, in particular, its adoption of the new text of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption (MESICIC/CEP- II/doc.5/06 rev. 2),

RESOLVES:

1. To urge those states parties to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption that have not yet done so to participate in the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC); and to urge all states parties to the Mechanism to fund it through voluntary contributions.

2. Also to urge those member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Mérida Convention) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention).

3. To urge the states parties to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption to take any measures they deem necessary to adapt their domestic law in order to comply with the commitments they undertook upon ratification of or accession to the Convention.

4. To express once again its support for strengthening the MESICIC and, in that regard:

- a. To express its satisfaction with the progress made by the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC, with support from the General Secretariat, in the second round of review, reflected in the adoption of the reports of Argentina, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Ecuador, and Honduras, and in the initiation of the process of preparing and considering the reports of Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago;
- b. To request the General Secretariat to continue identifying sources of funding within the OAS, such as the Regular Fund, and of external funding, such as international and regional financial institutions and national government agencies, among others, for the adequate funding of the MESICIC and, when applicable, for the full and effective implementation of its recommendations;
- c. To invite the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC to continue reporting to the Permanent Council on the implementation of concrete measures to strengthen the MESICIC as well as on other topics submitted to it for consideration; and
- d. To request the General Secretariat to continue, through the Office of Legal Cooperation of the Department of International Legal Affairs, to provide technical secretariat services to the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC and to the Committee of Experts of that mechanism.

5. To adopt, pursuant to operative paragraph 8 of resolution AG/RES. 2219 (XXXVI-O/06), the new text of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06 rev. 2), adopted by the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC at its second meeting, held in Washington, D.C., on November 20 and 21, 2006. The new text is appended to this resolution and forms an integral part thereof.

6. To request the General Secretariat to continue providing, through the Office of Legal Cooperation of the Department of International Legal Affairs, and pursuant to Chapter VIII of the new text of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, the technical support needed to implement that Program, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

7. To encourage member states and other donors to consider contributing, in accordance with Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, to the OAS specific fund "Inter-American Anti-Corruption Fund" to assist member states in implementing the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the MESICIC country report recommendations.

8. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on the activities stemming from this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

APPENDIX

MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

OEA/Ser.L/XXIII.2.2.
MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06 rev. 2 corr. 1
21 November 2006
Original: Spanish

Second Meeting of the Conference of States Parties
November 20-21, 2006
Washington, D.C.

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR COOPERATION
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

The member states of the OAS, bearing in mind:

That the General Assembly of the OAS, at its twenty-seventh regular session, in resolution AG/RES. 1477 (XXVII-O/97), adopted an Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption;

That ever since that moment, efforts have been ongoing toward the implementation of the actions provided for by that Program in the legal, institutional, international, and civil society arenas;

That in addition, during the period between the adoption of that Program and the present, new developments of great importance have taken place in the fields of international and hemispheric cooperation against corruption, and that these should be taken into account in a program of this kind, most particularly the following:

- The various mandates in this field adopted by the four Summits of the Americas and by the OAS General Assembly at its subsequent meetings, including resolution AG/RES. 2219 (XXXVI-O/06), which reaffirmed its satisfaction over the agreement reached at the First Meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC to strengthen the Conference of States Parties as a political forum for addressing topics in the area of hemispheric cooperation against corruption;
- The creation of the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), by means of the Report of Buenos Aires and the declaration signed by the States Parties in 2001, together with the due performance of their duties by the Conference of the States Parties and the Committee of Experts of that Mechanism, with the support of the Technical Secretariat, including the conclusion of the First Round of Analysis with the adoption of the twenty-eight (28) country reports and the corresponding Hemispheric Report, and the commencement of the Second Round of Analysis;

- The adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter in 2001, which states that “transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments,” *inter alia*, are “essential components of the exercise of democracy.”
- The adoption of the Declaration on Security in the Americas in 2003, in which the states called corruption “a threat to the security of our States” and committed themselves to strengthening the MESICIC;
- The adoption of legal instruments relating to anti-corruption efforts and mechanisms for following up on them, *inter alia*, under the aegis of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Council of Europe, along with the negotiation, approval, and recent entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

That operative paragraph 8 of resolution AG/RES. 2219 (XXXVI-O/06), “Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and its Program for Cooperation,” resolved to “recommend that the next meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC consider, review, update, and supplement, insofar as it considers this appropriate, the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, adopted by resolution AG/RES. 1477 (XXVII-O/97), and present its recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Permanent Council, for formal adoption at its thirty-seventh regular session; and to request the General Secretariat to draft a basic proposal for that purpose”; and

Having complied with the above, they agree that this document will be the new text of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption, the implementation of which will call for the following measures:

I. FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

1. Urge the OAS member states that have not yet done so to consider, as promptly as possible and as applicable to each case, ratifying or acceding to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and/or to become members of the MESICIC, and to pursue such formalities as may be necessary to facilitate those steps.

2. Continue strengthening the MESICIC and, to that end:

- a. Consolidate the MESICIC Conference of States Parties as the body with the authority and general responsibility for implementing the Mechanism and as the political forum for dealing with the topic of hemispheric anti-corruption cooperation, pursuant to the Report of Buenos Aires and to the decisions adopted by the Conference.
- b. Continue to carry out the technical analysis of the States Parties’ implementation of the Convention, through the MESICIC Committee of

Experts, together with the follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations issued to the States Parties in the country reports, in accordance with the terms of the Report of Buenos Aires and the Rules of Procedure and Other Provisions of the Committee of Experts.

- c. Continue strengthening the technical secretariat services of the MESICIC, to support, *inter alia*, the Committee of Experts and the Conference of States Parties in performing their duties, the dissemination of the developments taking place within that framework, and the coordination or execution of technical cooperation programs.
- d. Disseminate, over the Internet and other channels, the country, hemispheric, and annual progress reports referred to in Articles 25, 30, and 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Other Provisions of the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC.
- e. Promote, disseminate, coordinate, and execute technical cooperation programs and projects to support those states requiring the same in the implementation of the recommendations issued to them by the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC in its corresponding national analysis reports, and urging the realization of measures that favor the implementation of the recommendations.
- f. Continue to facilitate the participation and contributions of civil society organizations in the activities of the MESICIC Committee of Experts and Conference of States Parties, in accordance with their corresponding Rules of Procedure, and, when applicable, in processes relating to the implementation of the recommendations in each of the States Parties, in accordance with their domestic legislation.
- g. Promote, when necessary, training programs for MESICIC Experts, aimed at the implementation of the provisions.
- h. Bolster the funding of the MESICIC, both with resources from the OAS Regular Fund and with external sources of funding, including the consideration by the States Parties, as appropriate, of continuing or commencing to make voluntary contributions, so that the Mechanism can continue to discharge its tasks in an efficient and optimal fashion.

II. EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION

1. Consolidate, by means of the OAS webpage, the “Anti-corruption Portal of the Americas,” which will facilitate access to information about the developments taking place regarding transparency in public administration and anti-corruption cooperation under the aegis of the OAS, including all those within the MESICIC framework, along with links to the webpages of the member states’ agencies with responsibilities in this area.

2. Develop, support, or maintain pages or networks on the Internet, with restricted access if deemed necessary, to facilitate exchanges of information between authorities with responsibilities in specific areas relating to transparency in public administration and policies for the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of acts of corruption.
3. Give the broadest dissemination possible to the activities and developments taking place in anti-corruption cooperation efforts under the aegis of the OAS, including those related to the MESICIC and the steps taken to implement its recommendations in the States Parties.
4. Prepare and distribute printed publications to publicize the reports, activities, and developments taking place under the aegis of the OAS's anti-corruption cooperation efforts.
5. States Parties shall consider establishing or enhancing, as appropriate, educational and training programs, including programs for public officials, which promote the ethical values that sustain democracy and combat corruption.
6. Encourage cooperation by the mass media in the pursuit of educational campaigns in the struggle against corruption, and continue to exchange experiences on the role played by the mass media in fighting corruption.

III. RECOVERY OF ASSETS

1. Continue to assist and promote cooperation between the central authorities in the area of assistance for the provision of useful information for investigations and for evidentiary purposes, and to provide effective and specific assistance to help deny criminals the instrumentalities of their crimes, the proceeds or equivalent thereto, and to recover those instrumentalities, proceeds, or equivalents and return them to their legitimate owners in accordance with domestic law and applicable treaties.
2. Promote the consideration, among the States Parties, in addition to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, when applicable, of the signing of specific bilateral or multilateral agreements with respect to the seizure and confiscation of the instrumentalities and proceeds of crime, as well as the return to the legitimate owners of the goods obtained as a result of those actions, resulting from the commission of offenses criminalized pursuant to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and in compliance with their domestic laws.
3. Promote the training of experts and public officials in the areas of freezing of assets, forfeitures and the recovery of assets.

IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND EXTRADITION

1. Strengthen technical cooperation activities in order to continue making progress in the implementation of the Convention and in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of national laws, policies, and institutions related to anti-corruption undertakings, including the programs and

projects embarked on to support the states in their implementation of the recommendations from the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC as described in paragraph I.2.e of this Program.

2. Promote the development and dissemination of academic research and studies related to anti-corruption cooperation, including those that use the information produced under the aegis of the MESICIC, and facilitate the participation of universities and research centers in their preparation, analysis, and dissemination.

3. Encourage awareness of the training programs that exist in areas related to anti-corruption cooperation, and, when possible, the development thereof, in order to facilitate participation in those efforts by the competent officials of the OAS member states.

4. Continue to conduct comparative studies of legal provisions in the member states, identifying similarities, differences, and any legal gaps that might exist and, on the basis thereof, identify issues that might lead to the drafting of illustrative model laws that include the most advanced anti-corruption approaches.

5. Strengthen cooperation for the effective application of extradition provisions, in compliance with the provisions of Article XIII of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, to secure the arrest and trial of those who perpetrate, jointly perpetrate, instigate, serve as accomplices in, and conceal acts of corruption

V. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL FOLLOW-UP MECHANISMS

Continue to promote cooperation, exchanges of information, and joint activities in areas related to transparency in public administration and anti-corruption efforts with other international organizations, such as the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Council of Europe, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the International Monetary Fund.

VI. CIVIL SOCIETY

Foster the participation and contributions of civil society in the national activities and developments taking place at the hemispheric level regarding transparency in public administration and the fight against corruption, including those under the aegis of the Conference of the States Parties and the Committee of Experts of the MESICIC and in programs and projects to support the implementation of their recommendations to the States Parties, in accordance with the terms of paragraph I.2.f of this Program.

VII. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Recommend that the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC, in consideration of the recent entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, consider and adopt at its

next meeting a strategy on how the MESICIC could carry out the implementation of the various thematic areas covered by the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the monitoring of the developments made in connection with them.

VIII. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

Request that the General Secretariat, as the Technical Secretariat of the MESICIC, continue to provide the technical support necessary for the implementation of this Program, through the Office of Legal Cooperation of the Department of International Legal Affairs of the OAS, in accordance with the resources assigned in the program-budget and other resources of the OAS.

IX. FOLLOW-UP

Recommend that the Conference of States Parties to the MESICIC and the OAS General Assembly, within their respective areas of authority, duly follow-up on this Program.

AG/RES. 2276 (XXXVII-O/07)

DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST RACISM
AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1);

REAFFIRMING the content of its resolution AG/RES. 2168 (XXXVI-O/06) and all prior resolutions on the subject; and

HAVING SEEN document CP/CAJP-2357/06 rev. 7, "Preliminary Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance,"

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the progress achieved by the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

2. To instruct the Working Group to continue negotiations on that Draft Convention, taking into account the progress set forth in document CP/CAJP-2357/06 rev. 7, "Preliminary Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance," and in keeping with the work plan and working procedure to be adopted by the Group as it begins its activities.

3. To request that the Working Group continue promoting contributions from member states; organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States; the United Nations; and regional organizations; and to urge those bodies to continue sending their written contributions to the Working Group for consideration; and, bearing in mind the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, contained in Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), dated December 15, 1999, that it also continue to receive contributions from representatives of indigenous peoples, entrepreneurs and labor groups, and civil society organizations.

4. To renew the mandates to the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), as set forth in paragraphs 5, 7, and 8 of its resolution AG/RES. 2168 (XXXVI-O/06).

5. To request the General Secretariat to continue to provide the broadest possible support, through the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR and the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, to the Working Group's activities.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2277 (XXXVII-O/07)

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1971 (XXXIII-O/03), “The Protection of Refugees, Returnees, and Stateless and Internally Displaced Persons in the Americas,” AG/RES. 774 (XV-O/85), AG/RES. 838 (XVI-O/86), AG/RES. 951 (XVIII-O/88), AG/RES. 1021 (XIX-O/89), AG/RES. 1039 (XX-O/90), AG/RES. 1040 (XX-O/90), AG/RES. 1103 (XXI-O/91), AG/RES. 1170 (XXII-O/92), AG/RES. 1214 (XXIII-O/93), AG/RES. 1273 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1336 (XXV-O/95), AG/RES. 1416 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1504 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1602 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1892 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 2055 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2140 (XXXV-O/05), and, especially, resolution AG/RES. 2229 (XXXVI-O/06), “Internally Displaced Persons”;

REITERATING the principles established in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially those referred to in its Chapter III, “Democracy, Integral Development, and Combating Poverty”;

RECALLING the pertinent rules of international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law; and recognizing that the protection of internally displaced persons has been reinforced by the definition and consolidation of specific protection standards, in particular the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, prepared by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons;

RECALLING ALSO that, according to those guiding principles, internally displaced persons are “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”;

EMPHASIZING that the states have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address, as appropriate, the causes of the internal displacement problem and to do so, when so required, in cooperation with the international community;

NOTING that several countries in the Hemisphere are using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and including them in the development of national policies and strategies;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the problem of internally displaced persons is of significant proportions and that their needs, particularly with regard to protection and assistance, require immediate attention;

EMPHASIZING the importance of implementing effective policies for preventing and averting forced internal displacement and for protecting and assisting displaced persons during displacement and during return or resettlement and reintegration; and

UNDERSCORING that to promote enhanced protection for internally displaced persons, comprehensive strategies and lasting solutions are needed, which include, among other aspects, the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of internally displaced persons, promotion and protection of their human rights, and their resettlement and reintegration, either in their place of origin or in the receiving community; and, in this context, reaffirming the importance of international cooperation,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to include, as appropriate, in their sectoral plans, policies, and programs, the special needs of internally displaced persons, especially in the preparation of programs to foster development and fight poverty.

2. To urge member states to consider using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, prepared by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, as a basis for their plans, policies, and programs in support of such persons, and, in accordance with international law, in support of, *inter alia*, indigenous communities and communities of African descent, and the specific needs of children, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

3. To urge member states to consider adopting and implementing in their domestic law the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which reflect certain aspects of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

4. In order to avert the internal displacement of persons, to encourage member states to address the factors that cause it and to establish preventive policies, such as early warning, bearing in mind that dialogue with all the actors involved is essential to the achievement of lasting solutions.

5. To urge member states, in keeping with their responsibility to internally displaced persons, based on comprehensive strategies and from a human rights perspective, to commit to providing them with protection and assistance during displacement, through competent national institutions; and to invite member states to commit to seeking lasting solutions, including the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and their resettlement and reintegration, whether in their place of origin or in the receiving community.

6. To call upon states to protect the rights of internally displaced persons in natural and man-made disasters and to employ an approach to disaster relief and reconstruction, consistent with international human rights law and domestic law, taking into account the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and best practices.

7. To appeal to the appropriate agencies of the United Nations and the inter-American system, and to other humanitarian organizations and the international community, to provide support and/or assistance, as requested by states, in addressing the various factors that cause internal displacement, and in assisting persons affected by internal displacement at all stages, where account

should be taken of the Guiding Principles on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance (United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182).

8. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution as it sees fit.

AG/RES. 2278 (XXXVII-O/07)

SOCIAL CHARTER OF THE AMERICAS: RENEWAL OF THE HEMISPHERIC
COMMITMENT TO FIGHT POVERTY IN THE REGION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions AG/RES. 2056 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2139 (XXXV-O/05), “Draft Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Extreme Poverty in the Region” and AG/RES. 2241 (XXXVI-O/06), “Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Extreme Poverty in the Region”; and

The report on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2241 (XXXVI-O/06) (GTC/CASA/doc.48/07 rev. 2);

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes as one of the Organization’s essential purposes the eradication of extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the Hemisphere;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter also states that poverty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy; and

That the promotion and observance of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development and to equitable economic growth;

RECALLING the Declarations of the Summits of the Americas, the Declaration of Margarita on poverty, equity, and social inclusion, the Monterrey Consensus, and other pertinent documents of the Organization of American States;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the elimination of extreme poverty is an essential part of the promotion and consolidation of the democratic framework and is the common and shared responsibility of the states of the Americas;

BEARING IN MIND that the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata, adopted at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, encouraged the work of the OAS in drafting the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, “whose principles and objectives will be directed towards the achievement by member states of societies that offer all of our

citizens more opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion”;

RECALLING the proposal by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that, once the work on the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action has been concluded, a special session of the General Assembly be held to adopt them;

RECEIVING WITH APPRECIATION the offer by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host that above-mentioned special session of the General Assembly;

REAFFIRMING the moral and political commitment to combat poverty in the region; and

CONVINCED, therefore, of the pressing need to make all necessary efforts to advance more rapidly in preparing the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the report on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2241 (XXXVI-O/06), “Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Extreme Poverty in the Region,” which reflects substantive progress in the work of drafting of the Social Charter of the Americas carried out by the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), in fulfillment of the mandate contained in that resolution.

2. To renew the commitment it undertook and entrusted to the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to work intensively to conclude negotiations on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action; and to express the sincere political will of all our countries to conclude and adopt those documents before the end of 2007.

3. To reiterate the mandate given to the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to jointly prepare a draft Social Charter of the Americas and a Plan of Action, which includes the principles of social development and establishes specific goals and targets that reinforce the existing instruments of the Organization of the American States (OAS) on democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty.

4. To instruct the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development to prepare the Draft Plan of Action, conceived for the attainment of specific, feasible goals, on the basis of existing mandates, and following the structure of the Social Charter of the Americas.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to consider, once the negotiations process has concluded, convening a special session of the General Assembly, taking into account the offer of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host it, for the adoption of the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action.

6. To request the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to present the results of their work to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption.

AG/RES. 2279 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROMOTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT^{1/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1619 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1706 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1709 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1770 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1771 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1900 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1929 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2039 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2072 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2176 (XXXVI-O/06);

RECALLING ALSO the recommendation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (OEA/Ser.L/V/II.102, Doc. 6 rev., April 16, 1999, Chapter VII, 21.3.B), as well as its resolution No. 1/03, on the prosecution of international crimes, and the document "Framework for OAS Action on the International Criminal Court" (AG/INF.248/00);

RECOGNIZING that the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, on July 17, 1998, in Rome, is a milestone in efforts to combat impunity, and that the Court is a component of the international criminal justice system and an effective instrument for consolidating international justice and peace;

NOTING WITH CONCERN the continuation in some parts of the world of persistent violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law; and reaffirming that all states have the primary duty to investigate, prosecute, and punish those violations so as to prevent their recurrence and avoid the impunity of the perpetrators of those crimes;

CONVINCED of the importance of preserving the effectiveness and legal integrity of the Rome Statute, including the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court; and recognizing the essential role of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and the firm resolve of the states parties to preserve them;

WELCOMING the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on July 1, 2002, because as of that date the Court became the judicial body complementing the efforts of national jurisdictions to prosecute the perpetrators of the most serious international crimes, such as genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes;

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1. Reservation by the United States: The United States has long been concerned about the persistent violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law throughout the world. The United States will continue to be a forceful advocate for the principle of accountability for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, but cannot support the flawed International Criminal Court (ICC). Thus, the United States has not ratified the Rome Statute and has no intention of doing so. In light of this position, the United States cannot join in the consensus on an OAS resolution that promotes the Court, nor support the use of the OAS regular budget to fund cooperation and any other support rendered to the ICC, including under any OAS-ICC cooperation agreement. The United States understands that any such support will result only from specific fund contributions.

MINDFUL of the importance of effective cooperation from the states and from international and regional organizations, and of support from civil society, to the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court;

NOTING in this respect that Article 87.6 of the Rome Statute recognizes the role intergovernmental organizations can play in providing cooperation to the Court and that, in its resolution ICC-ASP/5/Res. 3, contained in ICC publication ICC-ASP/5/32, the Assembly of States Parties, at its fifth session, decided to invite other relevant regional organizations to consider concluding such agreements with the Court;

WELCOMING that 104 states have now ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute, among them 23 members of the Organization of American States—Saint Kitts and Nevis being the state in the Hemisphere most recently to do so—and that 139 states have signed it, including 27 members of the Organization;

NOTING WITH GRATIFICATION that 10 member states of the Organization have ratified or acceded to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, among them Uruguay, Bolivia, and Ecuador in 2006, and Argentina in early 2007; and that others are in the process of doing so;

NOTING the outcome of the fifth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, held from November 23 to December 3, 2006, and from January 29 to February 1, 2007;

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the progress made by the International Criminal Court in developing into a fully operational judicial body, and that the confirmation of charges in the case *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*, on January 29, 2007, marks the beginning of a new phase for the Court;

RECOGNIZING the important work of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court with member states in promoting and defending the Rome Statute;

HAVING SEEN the report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee presented pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2276 (XXXVI-O/06), provided in document CP/doc.4194/07;

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the holding, at the Organization's headquarters, on February 2, 2007, of the Working Meeting on appropriate measures that states should take to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and crimes against the administration of justice of the International Criminal Court, within the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and with support from the Office of International Law, in which representatives of the International Criminal Court, international organizations, and civil society organizations participated; and taking note of the results of that meeting, contained in the Rapporteur's report (CP/CAJP-2457/07 rev. 1); and

TAKING NOTE of the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1),

RESOLVES:

1. To renew its appeal to those member states of the Organization that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

2. To urge member states of the Organization that are parties or signatories to the Rome Statute to promote and respect its intent and its purpose, in order to preserve its effectiveness and integrity and bring about its universal adoption.

3. To remind the member states of the Organization that are parties to the Rome Statute that it is important to adapt or amend their domestic law, as necessary, with a view to the full and effective implementation of the Statute, including the relevant adaptations in accordance with such instruments of international human rights law or international humanitarian law as may be applicable to them.

4. To urge the member states of the Organization to cooperate to the greatest extent possible among themselves and, as appropriate, with the International Criminal Court, so as to avoid the impunity of the perpetrators of the most serious international crimes, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, ensuring that their national legislation facilitates said cooperation and applies to crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

5. To urge the member states of the Organization to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court and, in the case of those states that are already party to that Agreement, to take the necessary measures for its full and effective implementation at the national level.

6. To encourage states to contribute to the trust fund established by the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and of the families of such victims, as well as to the fund for the participation of least developed countries.

7. To invite member states to participate actively in the work of the Assembly of States Parties, as states parties or observers, where appropriate, with the purpose, among others, of stepping up discussions on the review conference planned for 2009 and ensuring the integrity of the Rome Statute.

8. To request the Inter-American Juridical Committee, on the basis of the information received from and updated by the member states, the recommendations contained in report CP/doc.4194/07, and existing cooperation law, to prepare model law on cooperation between states and the International Criminal Court, taking into account the Hemisphere's different legal systems, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

9. To invite the General Secretariat to designate a point of contact to consider entering into a cooperation agreement with the International Criminal Court and to report to the member states on progress in that regard before the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

10. To request the Permanent Council to hold a working meeting, with support from the Office of International Law, on appropriate measures that states should take to cooperate with the International Criminal Court, which should include a high-level dialogue in which member states discuss the recommendations contained in report CP/doc.4194/07. The International Criminal Court, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations will be invited to cooperate and participate in this working meeting.

11. To request the Permanent Council to include the topic of the implementation of the Rome Statute and of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities on the agenda of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

12. To request the Secretary General to present to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session a report on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the Organization's program-budget and other resources.

AG/RES. 2280 (XXXVII-O/07)

**HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: SUPPORT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND
ORGANIZATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS**

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1) as it pertains to this topic, and resolution AG/RES. 2177 (XXXVI-O/06), “Human Rights Defenders: Support for the Individuals, Groups, and Organizations of Civil Society Working to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Americas”;

RECALLING the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

REITERATING that “[e]veryone has the right, individually and in association with others, to solicit, receive and utilize resources for the express purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means” in accordance with domestic law consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and other international obligations of the state in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

CONCERNED that situations persist in the Americas that directly or indirectly prevent or hamper the work of individuals, groups, or organizations working to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

BEARING IN MIND that, in resolution 60/161 of the United Nations General Assembly and resolution 2005/67 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the member states of the United Nations noted “with deep concern that, in many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms are facing threats, harassment and insecurity as a result of those activities”;

CONSIDERING that the member states of the Organization of American States support the work carried out by human rights defenders and recognize their valuable contribution to the promotion, observance, and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Americas, and to the representation and defense of individuals, minorities, and other groups of persons whose rights are threatened or violated;

NOTING that the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights granting provisional measures, and the “Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas,” prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, have highlighted the importance of the work of human rights defenders to the development of democracies in the Americas;

URGING the Unit for Human Rights Defenders of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue its work;

EMPHASIZING that the protection and promotion of human rights is legitimate work and that, in the exercise of their duties, human rights defenders contribute decisively to strengthening democratic institutions and improving national human rights systems; and

EMPHASIZING ALSO the importance of the role of human rights defenders in promoting dialogue, openness, participation, and justice to contribute to the prevention of violence and promote sustainable peace and security, and the affirmation that, to be effective, international strategies in this area must pay special attention to protecting human rights defenders,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its support for the work carried out, at both the national and regional levels, by human rights defenders; and to recognize their valuable contribution to the promotion, observance, and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Hemisphere.

2. To recognize that, in view of their specific role and needs, women human rights defenders should be accorded special attention to ensure that they are fully protected and effective in carrying out their important activities.

3. To condemn actions that directly or indirectly prevent or hamper the work of human rights defenders in the Americas.

4. To encourage human rights defenders to continue their selfless work and their contributions to the enhancement of national human rights systems for the strengthening of democracy, in accordance with the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

5. To encourage member states to continue or begin, as the case may be, activities to educate and disseminate information to government officials, society at large, and the media, both public and private, so as to make them aware of the importance and validity of the work of human rights defenders and their organizations.

6. To urge member states to continue stepping up their efforts to adopt necessary measures to safeguard the lives, freedom, and personal safety of human rights defenders and their relatives, including effective emergency protection measures in the case of imminent threat or danger, and to ensure that thorough and impartial investigations and proceedings are carried out, and appropriate punishments are applied, in all cases of violations against human rights defenders.

7. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to:
 - a. Continue to give due consideration to this matter;
 - b. Continue intensifying its dialogue and cooperation with the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders; and
 - c. Include in its annual report a section on the work of the Unit for Human Rights Defenders of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
8. To encourage member states to ensure that national regulations—including registration where applicable under national law—concerning human rights defenders and their organizations, allow their work to be carried out in a free, transparent, and open political environment and in a manner consistent with applicable international human rights and humanitarian law.
9. To invite member states to promote the dissemination and enforcement of the instruments of the inter-American system and the decisions of its bodies on this matter, as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
10. To invite member states to consider the preparation and implementation of national plans to apply the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration mentioned in the preceding paragraph, for which purpose they may also request the advisory services of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
11. To invite member states to inform the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of measures adopted to follow up on the recommendations contained in the “Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas,” prepared in 2006 by the Unit for Human Rights Defenders of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
12. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2281 (XXXVII-O/07)

STRENGTHENING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the mandates assigned by the Third and the Fourth Summit of the Americas; resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXVI-E/99), which decided to establish the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA); resolution AG/RES. 2068 (XXXV-O/05), "Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas"; the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), especially with respect to the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2068 (XXXV-O/05); and resolutions AG/RES. 2228 (XXXVI-O/06), "Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas"; AG/RES. 2216 (XXXVI-O/06) "Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas: Strengthening the Activities of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas"; and AG/RES. 2266 (XXXVII-O/07), "Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas: Support for the REMJA Process";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the member states can continue considering the proposals presented by the JSCA at each Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA);

WELCOMING the presentation made by the JSCA to the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI), held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in April 2006, of a funding plan which proposed a system of suggested voluntary contributions by member states to cover the JSCA's basic costs;

APPRECIATING the voluntary contributions made by Belize, Chile, and Mexico;

NOTING that, as indicated in the aforementioned plan, the Center's basic costs for central administration and for services provided regionally through its Virtual Information Center and publications, now amounts to US\$675,000 per year;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the report on the Center's activities and its report on justice in the Americas 2005–2006, presented to the Permanent Council on January 22, 2007 (CP/doc.4173/07), as well as the third report on justice in the Americas (CP/doc.4170/07), which reflects the specific activities undertaken by the JSCA in recent years to strengthen justice systems in the member states;

NOTING that the JSCA reported that it is working intensely to expand and develop new projects with multilateral agencies and financial institutions; and

RECALLING that Article 17 of the Center's Statute, adopted in 1999 by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, establishes that the JSCA and its activities may be funded with voluntary contributions of the OAS member states as well as with funds from other public and private sources,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its appeal to member states to consider making voluntary contributions to the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) to cover its basic costs.
2. To invite the permanent observers of the Organization to make voluntary contributions to the JSCA.
3. To request that the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, include on its agenda a dialogue with the JSCA to consider finding ways to expand cooperation between the member states and the Center, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJAs) in this regard.
4. To instruct the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2282 (XXXVII-O/07)

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE STATUTES OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Articles 99 to 105 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), on the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI);

The Statutes of the CJI, adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization at its second regular session, held in Washington, D.C., in April 1972 [AG/RES. 89 (II-O/72)]; and

The Statutes of the CJI, Article 37 of which establishes that any amendment to these Statutes must be approved by the General Assembly;

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Juridical Committee is an organ of the OAS whose purpose is serve the Organization as an advisory body on juridical matters;

That Article 101 of the OAS Charter provides that the CJI shall be composed of 11 jurists, nationals of member states, elected for a period of four years from panels of three candidates presented by said states. The General Assembly shall conduct the election through a system that takes into account the partial replacement of membership and, insofar as possible, equitable geographic representation; and

That Article 101 also provides that no two members of the Committee may be nationals of the same state; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That the Statutes of the Inter-American Juridical Committee do not establish a term limit for its members; and

That the statutes of other OAS organs whose members are elected by the General Assembly establish that said members may be reelected only once,

RESOLVES:

To amend Article 4 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Juridical Committee to read as follows:

Article 4

The Committee shall be composed of 11 jurists, nationals of the member states, elected by the General Assembly in their personal capacity for a period of four years, from panels of three candidates presented by those states.

Its members may be reelected consecutively only once. Their terms of office shall begin on January 1 of the year following their election. Part of the membership of the Committee shall be replaced every year.

AG/RES. 2283 (XXXVII-O/07)

STUDY OF THE RIGHTS AND THE CARE OF PERSONS
UNDER ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1) as it pertains to this topic, as well as resolutions AG/RES. 1816 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1897 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1927 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2037 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2125 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2233 (XXXVI-O/06);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That in the inter-American system the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) undertake to respect and protect the human rights of persons who have been deprived of freedom, including all applicable rights established in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and those established in all other human rights instruments to which they are party;

That consultations with the member states on this subject have continued within the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and that a number of them have replied to the questionnaire prepared for that purpose (CP/CAJP-1853/01 rev. 1);

The conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-V), contained in its Final Report (REMJA-V/doc.9/04), and, in particular, the recommendation that the states promote “modernization of prison infrastructure and extend the functions of rehabilitation and social integration of the individual, by improving conditions of detention and studying new penitentiary standards”;

The conclusions and recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI), including those on a possible inter-American declaration on the rights, duties, and care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment and those on the feasibility of preparing a hemispheric manual on penitentiary rights, taking as a basis the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (REMJA-VI/doc.21/06 rev. 1, paragraphs 4.d and b);

The Recommendations of the First Meeting of Officials Responsible for the Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States (GAPECA/doc.04/03), held in Washington, D.C., on October 16 and 17, 2003;

That the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom in the Americas of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is preparing a draft “Declaration of Principles on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Freedom in the Americas”; and

OBSERVING WITH CONCERN the critical situation of violence and overcrowding in places of deprivation of freedom in the Americas, and stressing the need to take concrete measures to prevent this situation and to ensure the exercise of the human rights of persons deprived of freedom,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to comply, under all circumstances, with all applicable international obligations to respect the human rights of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment, including the rights established in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and those established in all other human rights instruments to which they are party.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue studying the question of the rights and the care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment, in cooperation with the competent organs and entities of the inter-American system and taking into account the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, contained in the Final Report of that meeting (REMJA-VI/doc.24/06 rev. 1), including the report of the First Meeting of Officials Responsible for the Penitentiary and Prison Policies of the OAS Member States (GAPECA/doc.04/03).

3. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to continue reporting on the situation of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment in the Hemisphere and, using as a basis its work on the subject, to proceed with the compilation of the regional and global standards for detention and imprisonment policies in the member states, making reference to any problems and good practices observed.

4. To congratulate and acknowledge those member states that have invited the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom in the Americas of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to visit their countries, including their detention centers; and to encourage all member states to facilitate such visits.

5. To call upon member states to consider allocating more funds to the IACHR to enable it to support the effective fulfillment of the mandate assigned to its Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom in the Americas.

6. To reiterate to the Permanent Council that, on the basis of the results of the discussions and studies conducted, including the inputs of the IACHR, and of the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom in the Americas of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the results of the Second Meeting of Officials Responsible for Penitentiary and Prison Policies, to be held pursuant to the REMJA-VI decision, indicating the need for it to be held as soon as possible, it should consider the possibility of drafting an inter-American declaration on the rights, duties, and care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment, with a view to strengthening existing international standards on these topics, and the feasibility of preparing a hemispheric manual on penitentiary rights, taking as a basis the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.^{1/}

1. The delegation of the United States did not participate in the consensus on operative paragraph 6 of this resolution. The Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General of the Hemisphere, meeting in the Dominican Republic, have requested another meeting, the Second Meeting of Officials Responsible

7. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

for Penitentiary and Prison Policies, to examine the same matters as those referred to in this paragraph, which asks the Permanent Council to undertake this work. The delegation of the United States considers that this request to the Permanent Council is inappropriate because it would duplicate the mandate.

AG/RES. 2284 (XXXVII-O/07)

SITUATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1718 (XXX-O/00), "Reform of the Inter-American Indian Institute"; AG/RES. 1933 (XXXIII-O/03) and AG/RES. 2046 (XXXIV-O/04), "Support for the Restructuring of the Inter-American Indian Institute"; and AG/RES. 2131 (XXXV-O/05), "Situation of the Inter-American Indian Institute";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the observations and recommendations on the annual reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS), in particular regarding the annual report of the Inter-American Indian Institute (III) (CP/doc.4175/07);

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Indian Institute was established in 1940, with the signing of the Pátzcuaro Convention, for the main purpose of fostering collaboration in the coordination of indigenous policies of the member states; of requesting, compiling, organizing, and distributing scientific research, legislation, historical archives, and other documents related to the indigenous peoples of the Americas; and of carrying out publication and dissemination activities to bring about an increased awareness of indigenous peoples [AG/RES. 2046 (XXXIV-O/04)];

RECOGNIZING ALSO that, in 1953, the Institute became an inter-American specialized organization of the OAS, whose status was the subject of the Agreement between the Organization and the Institute dated October 28, 1985, and that it currently coordinates necessary research to foster a better understanding of the present situation of indigenous peoples of the region and provides technical assistance for the establishment of development programs for said indigenous peoples;

CONCERNED over the difficult financial situation that the III has endured for a considerable period of time, which significantly hampers its capacity to carry out the plans and achieve the objectives that led to its establishment;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the decision taken by the Governing Board of the III on October 2, 2001, whereby the commitment was renewed to support the Institute and preserve its historical and documentary heritage;

RECOGNIZING the urgency of examining the future of the Institute; and

BEARING IN MIND the need to continue reaffirming and broadening the commitment of states to promote the integral development of indigenous peoples,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the important historical work of the Inter-American Indian Institute (III) and the value of its historical and documentary heritage.
2. To request the Permanent Council to call, within the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), for the establishment of a working group consisting of the III member countries and of other member states wishing to participate to:
 - a. Study the situation of the Inter-American Indian Institute in order to present recommendations on its future, taking into account the proposals of its Director General, as well as inputs transmitted in writing by representatives of the indigenous peoples, experts, other entities interested in the matter, and civil society organizations pursuant to the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities;
 - b. Consider the protection and overall development of the important historical and documentary resources of the Institute; and
 - c. Report its findings to the CAJP in the second half of 2007, to enable the Permanent Council to adopt the corresponding decisions.
3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the results of this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2285 (XXXVII-O/07)

SEVENTH INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE
ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1) as it pertains to the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII);

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1923 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2033 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2065 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2217 (XXXVI-O/06), which, respectively, convened CIDIP-VII; analyzed member state proposals for CIDIP-VII; selected Consumer Protection and Secured Transaction Registries as the two topics for its agenda; and established its methodology and preparatory work; and

CONSIDERING:

That a considerable number of states have appointed their government experts for drafting and discussing preparatory documents for CIDIP-VII, and that the Permanent Council adopted the methodology whereby government and independent experts are currently participating in the preparation of inter-American documents on consumer protection and secured transaction registries;

That in the area of consumer protection, the Government of Brazil has proposed a draft Convention on Applicable Law; the Government of Canada, a Draft Model Law on Jurisdiction and Applicable Law; and the Government of the United States, a Model Law on Monetary Redress;

That the Government of Brazil, in collaboration with the *Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul*, organized a meeting of experts on consumer protection, held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from December 2 to 4, 2006, at which the experts conducted negotiations on the draft Convention and Model Laws on consumer protection; and

That on the basis of the results of that meeting and subsequent consultations, pursuant to the methodology established by the Permanent Council, the proposing states are working toward completing their draft Convention and Model Laws on consumer protection; and that, despite advances on this topic, states have not yet presented specific proposals on the secured transactions registries topic,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its full satisfaction with the preparatory work carried out to date in the area of consumer protection; and to instruct the experts to continue this work with a view to completing a proposed Convention and Model Laws on the topic.

2. To instruct the member states to present their draft inter-American instruments on secured transaction registries; and to instruct the experts to begin their preparatory work on the basis of those proposals.

3. To express its heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Brazil and the *Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul*, for organizing the Meeting of Experts on Consumer Protection; and to encourage member states to complete their preparatory work through working groups and to sponsor additional meetings of experts, as necessary, to complete the texts of conventions and other instruments for the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII).

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue lending its support, through the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, to the preparation of conventions and model laws for consideration by CIDIP-VII and, if necessary, to seek external funding for the preparatory and final work of this Conference.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council to set a date (or dates) for CIDIP-VII, which may take the form of separate diplomatic conferences, if necessary, one when the experts complete their preparatory work on consumer protection and the other when they complete their work on secured transactions registries, recalling that the methodology approved for CIDIP-VII by the Permanent Council in document CP/CAJP-2309/05 permits this separation.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2286 (XXXVII-O/07)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR A UNIVERSAL CIVIL REGISTRY
AND “THE RIGHT TO IDENTITY”

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2196 (XXXVI-O/06), “Cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Secretariat of the United Nations System, the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, the General Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, and the Secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States,” in which the General Assembly resolved to request the Secretary General to continue and to strengthen activities involving cooperation between the OAS General Secretariat and each of the aforementioned organizations;

RECOGNIZING the obligations of the states parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity (“right to identity”);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Memorandum of Understanding among the United Nations Children’s Fund and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank for Cooperation in the Area of Citizen Registration, signed on August 8, 2006, which notes, *inter alia*, that the General Secretariat is committed to “strengthening governance through the modernization of the state and to the recognition and strengthening of the right to identity through programs and projects to increase access to citizen registration and to build capacity of institutions responsible for registration in Latin American and the Caribbean as the cornerstone of its development activities”;

CONSIDERING that, in response to requests from Peru and Mexico, on December 13, 2006, the Permanent Council received an extensive report from the General Secretariat on the aims and areas of cooperation that would be addressed under this Memorandum of Understanding;

TAKING NOTE of the document prepared by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (CP/CAJP-2482/07), of April 16, 2007, entitled “Preliminary Thoughts on Universal Civil Registry and the Right of Identity”;

CONSIDERING that recognition of the identity of persons is one of the means through which observance of the rights to legal personhood, a name, a nationality, civil registration, and family relationships is facilitated, among other rights recognized in international instruments, such as the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights. The exercise of these rights is essential for participation in a democratic society;

CONSIDERING ALSO that non-recognition of identity can mean that a person has no legal proof of his or her existence, which makes it difficult to exercise fully his or her civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights;

EMPHASIZING the importance of civil registries as state institutions that can guarantee recognition of the identity of persons and, therefore, the advisability of strengthening them to ensure that their scope is universal, taking into account the rich and varied diversity of cultures;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that it is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development;

COMMITTED to building just, equitable societies based on the principles of social justice and social inclusion; and

TAKING NOTE of the special meeting of the Permanent Council held on March 9, 2007, on “childhood, the right of identity, and citizenship,” and the report thereon (CP/doc.4202/07); and recalling that, at this stage, it was agreed to request of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) an opinion on the scope of the right of identity,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states to adopt measures, such as the elimination of underregistration, to ensure full recognition of the right to identity, which is essential to the exercise of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.
2. To congratulate the General Secretariat on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the United Nations Children’s Fund and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank for Cooperation in the Area of Citizen Registration; and to encourage it to implement all the objectives set forth in said Memorandum in a comprehensive and balanced manner.
3. To instruct the Permanent Council, in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, to form a working group to prepare an Inter-American Program for a Universal Civil Registry and “the Right to Identity.”
4. To request the General Secretariat to draft a proposed Inter-American Program for a Universal Civil Registry and “the Right to Identity,” taking into account the following guidelines:
 - a. Ensure that the birth registry, which is used to ensure the right of civil identity, with emphasis on persons in poverty and at risk, is universal, accessible, and, if possible, cost-free;
 - b. Promote a multidimensional approach to this topic, which takes into account the rich and varied diversity of cultures in the Americas, considering its relationship with the enjoyment of rights and freedoms, with the modernization and transparency of state institutions, and with citizen participation in the democratic societies of the Hemisphere;
 - c. Support governments in the modernization of their identity registries, in national plans to restore identity, and in the updating of vital statistics;

- d. Promote citizen participation through universalization of the civil registry to protect and demand the effective exercise of and respect for the right to identity;
- e. Foster regional cooperation, with a view to drawing upon the successful experiences of countries in the Hemisphere that have implemented social programs to guarantee the right of identity to their citizens by issuing the appropriate government identification documents;
- f. To the extent possible, consider factors aimed at harmonizing laws in force in the various member states in the area of the identity of persons; and
- g. Foster uniformity in registration systems, so as to obtain instruments that will enable their use in the various member states.

5. To request the General Secretariat to present, in the second half of 2007, a report on progress made in implementing the above-mentioned Memorandum of Understanding in order to contribute to the work of the working group to prepare an Inter-American Program for a Universal Civil Registry and “the Right to Identity.”

6. To request the Permanent Council to continue supporting efforts under the above-mentioned Memorandum of Understanding.

7. To request the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) to continue working on the topic “[t]o ensure children’s right to identity and citizenship,” as set out in its Strategic Plan 2005-2008, and to keep the Permanent Council informed of progress and obstacles in the region.

8. To encourage the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to conclude its study and report on the issue of underregistration and promotion of the right to identity in the region, which report is of vital importance for implementation of the Program and for the holding of the First Inter-American Conference on the Universal Birth Registry, to take place in Asunción, Paraguay, from August 27 to 31, 2007.

9. To invite the competent organs, specialized agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, as well as the member states, to forward their contributions relevant to the work of the working group to prepare an Inter-American Program for a Universal Civil Registry and “the Right to Identity.”

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2287 (XXXVII-O/07)

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION
AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEDIA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2237 (XXXVI-O/06), “Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression and the Importance of the Media”;

UNDERSCORING the Declaration of Santo Domingo: Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society [AG/DEC. 46 (XXXVI-O/06)], adopted on June 6, 2006;

RECALLING that the right to freedom of thought and expression, which includes the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, is recognized in Article IV of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Democratic Charter (including Article 4), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other international instruments and national constitutions, as well as United Nations General Assembly resolution 59 (I) and resolution 104 of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

RECALLING ALSO that Article IV of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man states that “[e]very person has the right to freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, by any medium whatsoever”;

RECALLING FURTHER that Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights states that:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This right includes freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or through any other medium of one’s choice;

2. The exercise of the right provided for in the foregoing paragraph shall not be subject to prior censorship but shall be subject to subsequent imposition of liability, which shall be expressly established by law to the extent necessary to ensure:

- a. Respect for the rights or reputations of others; or
- b. The protection of national security, public order, or public health or morals.

3. The right of expression may not be restricted by indirect methods or means, such as the abuse of government or private controls over newsprint, radio broadcasting frequencies, or equipment used in the dissemination of information, or by any other means tending to impede the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, public entertainments may be subject by law to prior censorship for the sole purpose of regulating access to them for the moral protection of childhood and adolescence.

5. Any propaganda for war and any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitute incitements to lawless violence or to any other similar action against any person or group of persons on any grounds including those of race, color, religion, language, or national origin shall be considered as offenses punishable by law;

BEARING IN MIND principles 10 and 11 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), of 2000, which refer to the decriminalization of “*desacato*” (offensive expressions directed at public officials);

RECALLING the relevant volumes of the Annual Reports of the IACHR for 2004, 2005, and 2006 on freedom of expression, as well as the comments by member states during meetings at which said reports were presented;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions 2004/42 and 2005/38, “The Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression,” of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights; and

RECALLING the significance of the studies and contributions approved by UNESCO regarding the contribution of the media to strengthening peace, tolerance, and international understanding, to the promotion of human rights, and to countering racism and incitement to war,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the right to freedom of expression and to call upon member states to respect and ensure respect for this right, in accordance with the international human rights instruments to which they are party, such as the American Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, *inter alia*.

2. To reaffirm that freedom of expression and dissemination of ideas are fundamental for the exercise of democracy.

3. To urge member states to safeguard, within the framework of the international instruments to which they are party, respect for freedom of expression in the media, including radio and television, and, in particular, respect for the editorial independence and freedom of the media.

4. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the American Convention on Human Rights.

5. To reaffirm that free and independent media are fundamental for democracy and for the promotion of pluralism, tolerance, and freedom of thought and expression; and to facilitate dialogue and debate, free and open to all segments of society, without discrimination of any kind.

6. To urge member states to promote a pluralistic approach to information and multiple points of view by fostering full exercise of freedom of expression and thought, access to media, and diversity in the ownership of media outlets and sources of information, through, *inter alia*, transparent licensing systems and, as appropriate, effective regulations to prevent the undue concentration of media ownership.

7. To urge member states to consider the importance of including, in their domestic legal systems, rules about the establishment of alternative or community media and safeguards to ensure that they are able to operate independently, so as to broaden the dissemination of information and opinions, thereby strengthening freedom of expression.

8. To call upon member states to adopt all necessary measures to prevent violations of the right to freedom of thought and expression and to create the necessary conditions for that purpose, including ensuring that relevant national legislation complies with their international human rights obligations and is effectively implemented.

9. To urge member states to review their procedures, practices, and legislation, as necessary, to ensure that any limitations on the right to freedom of opinion and expression are only such as are provided by law and are necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others or for the protection of national security, public order (*ordre public*), or public health or morals.

10. To recognize the valuable contribution of information and communication technologies, such as the Internet, to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and to the ability of persons to seek, receive, and impart information, as well the contributions they can make to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related and contemporary forms of intolerance, and to the prevention of human rights abuses.

11. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights once again to follow up on and deepen its study of the issues addressed in the relevant volumes of its 2004, 2005, and 2006 Annual Reports on freedom of expression, on the basis, *inter alia*, of the inputs on the subject that it receives from member states.

12. To invite member states to consider the recommendations concerning defamation made by the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, namely by repealing or amending laws that criminalize *desacato*, defamation, slander, and libel, and, in this regard, to regulate these conducts exclusively in the area of civil law.

13. To reiterate to the Permanent Council that, through its Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, it is to hold a special two-day meeting to delve further into the existing international jurisprudence on the subject covered in Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights and include the following items on the agenda of that meeting:

- a. Public demonstrations as exercise of the right to freedom of expression; and
- b. The subject of Article 11 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

Invitees to the aforementioned meeting will include members of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, and experts from the member states, all for the purpose of sharing their experiences with these issues.

14. To take into consideration the findings of, and views expressed at, the Special Meeting on Freedom of Thought and Expression, held on October 26 and 27, 2006, in the framework of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs; and to request the Special Rapporteur of the IACHR to report on the conclusions and recommendations issued by the experts at that special meeting, in order to follow up on the matter.

15. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2288 (XXXVII-O/07)

ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION: STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY^{1/}

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), on the status of implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2252 (XXXVI-O/06), “Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy”;

CONSIDERING that Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights provides that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This right includes freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or through any other medium of one’s choice”;

CONSIDERING ALSO that Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes the right “to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”;

RECALLING that the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001) indicates that governments will ensure that national legislation is applied equitably to all, respecting freedom of expression and access to public information by all citizens;

EMPHASIZING that Article 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy;

NOTING that, in the Declaration of Nuevo León, the Heads of State and Government affirmed that access to information held by the state, subject to constitutional and legal norms, including those on privacy and confidentiality, is an indispensable condition for citizen participation and promotes effective respect for human rights, and, in that connection, that they are committed to

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms the statement made in the footnote to resolution AG/RES. 2252 (XXXVI-O/06), to the effect that the IACHR should include in the study entrusted to it under operative paragraph 9 of said resolution, taking into account the right of all citizens to seek, receive, and impart information, how the state may guarantee that right to populations that are socially and economically excluded, in the framework of the principles of transparency of information, when that information is disseminated via the media, and on the basis of the right to equality of all individuals under the law.

Along those lines, we underscore the important conclusions and reflections of the special meeting on the right to public information, held on April 28, 2006, within the framework of the OAS, in which it was recognized that the media were responsible for ensuring that citizens receive, without distortions of any type, information provided by the state.

providing the legal and regulatory framework and the structures and conditions required to guarantee the right of access to public information;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the adoption of the Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas [AG/DEC. 31 (XXXIII-O/03)], as well as resolution AG/RES. 1960 (XXXIII-O/03), "Program for Democratic Governance in the Americas";

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) has been identifying and facilitating access by member states to e-government practices that facilitate information and communication technology applications in governmental processes;

CONSIDERING ALSO that the General Secretariat has been providing support to member state governments in dealing with the topic of access to public information;

NOTING the work accomplished by the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI) on this issue, in particular resolution CJI/RES. 123 (LXX-O/07), "Right to Information," attached to which is the report titled "Right to Information: Access to and Protection of Information and Personal Data in Electronic Format" (CJI/doc.25/00 rev. 2);

RECOGNIZING that the goal of achieving an informed citizenry must be rendered compatible with other societal aims, such as safeguarding national security, public order, and protection of personal privacy, pursuant to laws passed to that effect;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that democracy is strengthened through full respect for freedom of expression, access to public information, and the free dissemination of ideas, and that all sectors of society, including the media, through the public information they disseminate to citizens, may contribute to a climate of tolerance of all views, foster a culture of peace, and strengthen democratic governance;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the important role civil society can play in promoting broad access to public information;

TAKING NOTE of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); and of the Joint Declaration by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the ACHPR (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, adopted in 2006;

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the reports of the IACHR Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression on the situation of access to information in the Hemisphere for 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006;

TAKING NOTE FURTHER of the report on the special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to promote, impart, and exchange experiences and knowledge with

respect to access to public information and its relationship with citizen participation, which received input from experts from the states and civil society representatives, held at OAS headquarters on April 28, 2006 (CP/CAJP-2320/06 add. 2); and the Special Meeting on Freedom of Thought and Expression, held on October 27 and 28, 2006, which highlighted recent inter-American jurisprudence on access to public information;

RECALLING initiatives taken by civil society regarding access to public information, in particular, the Declaration of Chapultepec, the Johannesburg Principles, the Lima Principles, and the Declaration of the SOCIUS Peru 2003: Access to Information, as well as the Regional Forum on Access to Public Information: Challenges to Freedom of Information in the Hemisphere, held in Lima, Peru, on January 20 and 21, 2004; and

RECALLING ALSO that the media, the private sector, and political parties can likewise play an important role in facilitating access by citizens to information held by the states,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that everyone has the freedom to seek, receive, access, and impart information and that access to public information is a requisite for the very exercise of democracy.
2. To urge member states to respect and promote respect for everyone's access to public information and to promote the adoption of any necessary legislative or other types of provisions to ensure its recognition and effective application.
3. To encourage member states, in keeping with the commitment made in the Declaration of Nuevo León and with due respect for constitutional and legal provisions, to prepare and/or adjust their respective legal and regulatory frameworks, as appropriate, so as to provide the citizenry with broad access to public information.
4. Also to encourage member states, when preparing and/or adjusting their respective legal and regulatory frameworks, as appropriate, to provide civil society with the opportunity to participate in that process; and to urge them, when drafting and/or adapting their national legislation, to take into account clear and transparent exception criteria.
5. To encourage member states to take the necessary measures, through their national legislation and other appropriate means, to make public information available electronically or by any other means that will allow ready access to it.
6. To encourage civil society organizations to make information related to their work available to the public.
7. To instruct the Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Department of State Modernization and Governance of the Secretariat for Political Affairs:

- a. To support the efforts of member states that so request in drafting legislation and developing mechanisms in the area of access to public information and citizen participation; and
 - b. To assist the Permanent Council in the work of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) mentioned in operative paragraph 13.a below.
- 8. To instruct the Department of International Legal Affairs:
 - a. To prepare a study with recommendations on the subject of access to information and protection of personal data, on the basis of the inputs from the organs of the inter-American system and from civil society, as well as the preparatory work conducted during the special meeting of the CAJP on the subject; and
 - b. To assist the Permanent Council in the work of the CAJP mentioned in operative paragraph 13.a below.
- 9. To request the Inter-American Juridical Committee to continue to carry out comparative law studies on the protection of personal data, and to update the study “Right to Information: Access to and Protection of Information and Personal Data in Electronic Format,” of 2000, taking into account the diverse viewpoints on the subject, in connection with which it will draw up and distribute to the member states, with due support from the Secretariat, a new questionnaire on the topic.
- 10. To instruct the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to continue to include in the Annual Report of the IACHR a report on the situation regarding access to public information in the region.
- 11. To instruct the IACHR to conduct a study on how the state can guarantee to all citizens the freedom to seek, receive, and impart public information on the basis of the principle of freedom of expression.
- 12. To instruct the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) to identify new resources to support member states’ efforts to facilitate access to public information.
- 13. To recommend to the Permanent Council that it:
 - a. Request the CAJP to prepare a basic document on best practices and the development of common approaches or guidelines for increasing access to public information, on the basis of the report of the aforementioned special meeting and taking into account the report of the Chair of the Permanent Council on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2252 (XXXVI-O/06), as well as inputs from the member state delegations, the Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the Department of International Legal Affairs, the Department of State Modernization and Governance, interested

organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, and civil society representatives; and

- b. Request the General Secretariat to promote seminars, workshops, or other events and activities designed to promote access to public information by citizens and government administrations.

14. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2289 (XXXVII-O/07)

THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report on this topic included in the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1);

EXPRESSING ITS SATISFACTION with the adoption of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, through its resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05);

NOTING the special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), held on February 13, 2007, on the implementation of the Inter-American Program and proposals for new optional activities by the states, as well as the presentations of the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS;

REAFFIRMING that the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man proclaims that all persons are equal before the law and have the rights and duties established therein, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

EMPHASIZING that the American Convention on Human Rights recognizes that the essential rights of the human individual are not derived from the fact that a person is a national of a certain state, but are based upon attributes of the human personality;

REAFFIRMING that the principles and standards set forth in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in the American Convention on Human Rights take on particular relevance with respect to protection of the human rights of migrant workers and their families;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Its resolutions AG/RES. 1717 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1775 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1898 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1928 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2027 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2130 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2224 (XXXVI-O/06); and

The Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to the General Assembly, especially the chapter on the situation of migrant workers and members of their families in the Hemisphere (CP/doc.4188/07 Vol. I);

CONSIDERING:

That the Heads of State and Government gathered at the Third Summit of the Americas recognized the cultural and economic contributions made by migrants to receiving societies as well as

to their communities of origin and committed to ensuring dignified, humane treatment with applicable legal protections and to strengthening mechanisms for hemispheric cooperation to address their legitimate needs;

That in the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government highlighted the importance of cooperation among countries of origin, countries of transit, and receiving countries to ensure full protection of the human rights of all migrants, including migrant workers and their families, the defense of human rights, and safe and healthy labor conditions for migrants, and to adopt effective measures against trafficking in persons;

That the Heads of State and Government gathered at the Fourth Summit of the Americas adopted the Declaration of Mar del Plata, "Creating Jobs to Confront Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance," and its Plan of Action, in which they reaffirmed, *inter alia*, important commitments related to the human rights of migrant workers;

That practically all the countries in the Hemisphere are countries of origin, countries of transit, and receiving countries for migrants and have the authority to regulate the immigration of persons into their territories, in accordance with applicable international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law;

The migrant programs adopted by some countries, which permit the integration of migrants into the receiving countries, facilitate family reunification, and promote a climate of harmony, tolerance, and respect;

The positive contributions often made by migrants, both to their countries of origin and to the transit or receiving countries, and their gradual incorporation into the receiving societies; as well as the efforts made by some transit or receiving countries to attend both to the needs of migrants and to those of the receiving or local community;

The entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, on July 1, 2003; the installation and initiation of work of the United Nations Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and the entry into force of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, on January 28, 2004, and of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, on December 25, 2003, which supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention);

Advisory Opinion OC-16/99, "The Right to Information on Consular Assistance in the Framework of the Guarantees of the Due Process of Law," issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on October 1, 1999;

Advisory Opinion OC-18/03, "Juridical Condition and Rights of the Undocumented Migrants," issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on September 17, 2003; and

The judgment issued by the International Court of Justice on March 31, 2004, in the case *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals*;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That, in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002–2005 of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), support for vulnerable groups such as migrant workers was identified as a priority in the implementation of policies and programs to facilitate access to the labor market and to improve working conditions; and

That the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas provided for the establishment of an inter-American program within the OAS for the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, taking into account the activities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and supporting the work of the IACHR Special Rapporteurship on Migrant Workers and Their Families and of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;

CONCERNED over the extremely vulnerable situation in which many migrant workers and their families in the Hemisphere find themselves and over the persistent obstacles that prevent them from fully exercising their human rights;

BEARING IN MIND that policies and initiatives on the issue of migration, including those that refer to the orderly management of migration, should promote holistic approaches that take into account the causes and consequences of the phenomenon, as well as full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO that migrants are often victims of crimes, mistreatment, discrimination, racism, and xenophobia in transit and receiving countries, and that women migrants who are unaccompanied or heads of household are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence and other forms of sexual and labor exploitation, which calls for broad cooperation to address these situations, as well as the potential vulnerability of migrants' families in the countries of origin;

TAKING NOTE of the regional initiatives, activities, and programs of the Regional Conference on Migration (Puebla Process) in North America, the countries of Central America, and the Dominican Republic; the ministerial dialogue among Mesoamerican countries, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Colombia; as well as the South American Conference on Migration and the Specialized Forum on Migration of MERCOSUR; and

BEARING IN MIND that all migrants and their advocates have a duty and obligation to obey all the laws of sending, transit, and receiving countries,

RESOLVES:

1. To strongly condemn manifestations or acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance against migrants, as well as all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance with respect to access to employment, professional training, housing, instruction, health services, social services, and services to the public.

2. To express concern about legislation and measures adopted by some states that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants; and to reaffirm that, when

exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, states have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants.

3. To request all states, international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to take into account in their policies and initiatives on migration issues the global character of the migratory phenomenon and to give due consideration to international, regional, and bilateral cooperation in this field, including by undertaking dialogues on migration that include countries of origin, destination, and transit, as well as civil society, including migrants, with a view to addressing, in a comprehensive manner, *inter alia*, its causes and consequences and the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, granting priority to the protection of the human rights of migrants.

4. To reaffirm the duty of states parties to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations to comply with that Convention, including the right to communication between consular officers and their nationals in cases of detention and the obligation of the states parties in whose territory the detention occurs to inform the foreign national of that right; and, in that connection, to call the attention of states to Advisory Opinion OC-16/99 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and to the ruling of the International Court of Justice of March 31, 2004, in the case *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals*, on the obligation to comply with Article 36 of the Vienna Convention.

5. To call the attention of the states to Advisory Opinion OC-18/03 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which holds that “the migratory status of a person cannot constitute a justification to deprive him of the enjoyment and exercise of human rights, including those of a labor-related nature.”

6. To encourage member states to consider the adoption of programs aimed at integrating migrants into their societies, in order to promote a climate of harmony, tolerance, and respect.

7. To encourage constructive dialogue and cooperation among member states so as to improve their migration policies and practices with a view to providing adequate protection to all migrants, including migrant workers and their families, and in order to promote migration processes in keeping with the domestic legal system of each state and applicable international law.

8. To urge member states to consider the signature and ratification of, ratification of, or accession to the inter-American human rights instruments, as the case may be, and to take the necessary measures to guarantee the human rights of all migrants, including migrant workers and their families.

9. To call upon member states to consider the signature and ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

10. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue supporting the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in this area and to take into account the efforts of other international organizations on behalf of migrant workers and their families, with a view to

helping to improve their situation in the Hemisphere and, in particular and where applicable, the efforts of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and those of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

11. To request that, during the 2008-2009 biennium, pursuant to paragraph V.A of the Inter-American Program and in cooperation with the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Secretary General follow up on the Work Plan of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, which he presented on February 13, 2007 (CP/CAJP-2456/07).

12. To instruct the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to support, during the 2008-2009 biennium, the execution of and, when appropriate, to implement the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

13. To encourage states to consider, in the design, execution, and evaluation of their migration policies, the optional activities suggested in the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

14. To convene, as established in the Inter-American Program, a meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) in the first half of 2008 and another one in the first half of 2009, with the participation of government experts and representatives of the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, other international organizations, and civil society, for the purpose of sharing best practices and activities carried out last year in support of the Program, as well as new proposals that might be incorporated into it.

15. To request the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to include, in their annual reports to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth regular sessions, their actions aimed at implementing the activities set out in the Program.

16. To request the CAJP to convene, periodically and as appropriate, the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization with a view to facilitating free-flowing dialogue with the member states on implementation of the activities assigned to the Organization by the Inter-American Program.

17. To instruct the Permanent Council to constitute a specific fund composed of voluntary contributions, called the "Fund for the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families," to contribute to funding of the activities assigned to the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS in support of this Program; and to urge member states, permanent observers, regional organizations, international organizations, and civil society organizations to contribute to the Fund.

18. To urge the General Secretariat, working through the Department of International Legal Affairs, to disseminate, *inter alia*, the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

19. To request the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) to strengthen communication and coordination with the IACHR, the IOM, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and other pertinent organizations, agencies, and entities and, in that context, to follow up in particular on IACD partnership-for-development activities under the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002–2005, related to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families.

20. To entrust the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with:

- a. Considering the advisability of participating in joint cooperation projects conducted by the IACD in this area;
- b. Providing its Special Rapporteurship on Migrant Workers and Their Families with the necessary and appropriate means to perform its functions, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; and
- c. Presenting to the Permanent Council a report on the status of the rights of migrant workers and their families, prior to both the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth regular sessions of the General Assembly.

21. To invite member states, permanent observers, organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, and others to contribute to the Voluntary Fund of the IACHR Special Rapporteurship on Migrant Workers and Their Families.

22. To urge member states to consider inviting the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers and Their Families to visit their countries to enable said Rapporteur to perform his or her functions effectively.

23. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth and its thirty-ninth regular sessions on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2290 (XXXVII-O/07)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (AG/doc.4763/07);

CONSIDERING:

That, in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the member states have proclaimed, as one of their principles, respect for the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex;

That, under the OAS Charter and the American Convention on Human Rights, the principal function of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is to promote the observance and protection of human rights;

That in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) the Heads of State and Government recognized that the promotion and protection of human rights, on the basis of the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence, are essential to the functioning of democratic societies, as well as the need to continue the process of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the inter-American human rights system to achieve, among other objectives, greater accession to the legal instruments, effective observance of the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and due consideration of the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights;

THANKING the Governments of Guatemala and Paraguay for the invitations they extended to the IACHR to hold special sessions in those countries, as a means of promoting the inter-American human rights system; and

THANKING ALSO the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico, which have extended open and permanent invitations to the IACHR to visit those countries,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (AG/doc.4763/07) and to forward them to that organ.

2. To reaffirm the essential value of the work carried out by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights and to reinforce the rule of law in the Hemisphere.

3. To encourage member states to:

- a. Consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, all legal instruments of the inter-American human rights system;
- b. Follow up on the recommendations of the IACHR, including, *inter alia*, precautionary measures; and
- c. Continue to take appropriate action in connection with the annual reports of the IACHR, in the context of the Permanent Council and the General Assembly.

4. To note with satisfaction the decisions taken by governments of member states that have invited the IACHR to visit their respective countries; and to encourage all member states to continue this practice and to consider the requests filed by the IACHR to that end.

5. To encourage member states to continue inviting the IACHR to hold special sessions away from its headquarters.

6. To reiterate its request to the IACHR to present to the member states for their information a detailed report on the special session held in Mexico, with the participation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, from July 19 to 23, 2004.

7. To urge the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights to continue to hold specialized seminars from time to time for government officials, on the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights.

8. To reiterate the importance of the application of the friendly settlement mechanism among parties concerned, in accordance with the American Convention on Human Rights and the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

9. To take the following actions with regard to financing of the IACHR:

- a. Instruct the Permanent Council to continue analyzing ways to achieve an effective increase in the financial resources allocated to the IACHR in the program-budget of the Organization. To that end, thank the Secretary General for his work and urge him to continue his efforts and to present, prior to the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, additional proposals aimed at achieving adequate financing for the Commission in said program-budget;

- b. Thank member states, permanent observers, and institutions that have made voluntary contributions to the IACHR; and
 - c. Suggest to donors that, to the extent possible, part of the voluntary contributions that they make not be earmarked for specific purposes, to give the Commission flexibility in allocating resources among its various activities and projects.
10. To invite the IACHR to:
- a. Continue to take into account the observations and recommendations of the member states on its annual report and to adopt such measures as it considers pertinent based on such observations and recommendations;
 - b. Continue to publish on its Internet page, when member states so request, their observations and recommendations on its annual report to the General Assembly;
 - c. Continue to strengthen, pursuant to Article 15 of its Rules of Procedure, existing rapporteurships and operational units, in the most equitable manner possible, within the limits of its available resources, and in accordance with the procedures in effect for designating special rapporteurs; and
 - d. Continue to participate, through the members of the Commission, in the dialogue with member states, in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), so as to follow up on the observations and comments of the states set forth in the reports on the meetings held on October 26, 2004 (CP/CAJP/SA.412/04 corr. 1 and CP/CAJP/INF.17/04), on March 9, 2006 (CP/CAJP-2311/05 add. 2 and 2-a), and on March 30, 2007 (CP/CAJP-2526/07), in particular those on the criteria used when applying its principal mechanisms for the protection of human rights and when applying its Rules of Procedure to the individual case system; and likewise on the role of the IACHR in proceedings before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
11. To instruct the CAJP, with a view to implementing operative paragraph 10.d, to:
- a. Schedule meetings to continue its dialogue with the members of the IACHR; and
 - b. Hold a meeting in the second half of 2007, at which the IACHR would elucidate the amendments to its Rules of Procedure, their application, and their scope. Representatives of civil society will be able to take part in this meeting, in accordance with Permanent Council resolutions CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society in OAS Activities," and CP/RES. 840 (1361/03), "Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities."

12. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2291 (XXXVII-O/07)

STRENGTHENING OF HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS PURSUANT TO THE MANDATES
ARISING FROM THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1) as it pertains to this topic, as well as resolutions AG/RES. 1828 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1890 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1925 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2030 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2075 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2220 (XXXVI-O/06);

REAFFIRMING that universal promotion and protection of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence, as well as respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law, are essential to the functioning of democratic societies; and stressing the importance of respect for the rule of law, effective and equal access to justice, and participation by all elements of society in public decision-making processes;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the importance of the inter-American human rights system, whose organs have competence to promote the observance of human rights in all member states of the Organization, in accordance with the commitments undertaken by each state, and which operate in a manner subsidiary to national jurisdictional systems;

EXPRESSING that strengthening the autonomy of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in the context of the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the Statute and Rules of Procedure of said Commission, will lead to improvements in the inter-American human rights system;

CONSIDERING that the Organization can serve as a forum for contributing to the efforts of member states to develop and strengthen national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights; and

BEARING IN MIND the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001) and of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005), in particular, paragraphs 45 and 62 of the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit, on the development of comprehensive economic and social policies, and on strengthening of the inter-American human rights system, respectively,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of member states to continue strengthening and improving the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights and, in that connection, to continue to take the following concrete measures aimed at implementing the respective

mandates of the Heads of State and Government arising from the Summits of the Americas, in particular, the Third Summit (Quebec City, 2001) and the Fourth Summit (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005):

- a. Universalization of the inter-American human rights system by considering the signature and ratification or ratification of, or accession to, as soon as possible and as the case may be, all universal and inter-American human rights instruments;
- b. Compliance with the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and follow-up of the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;
- c. Improvement of access by victims to the mechanisms of the inter-American human rights system;
- d. Adequate financing of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including the fostering of voluntary contributions, so that they may continue to address their activities and responsibilities; and
- e. Examination of the possibility that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights may come to operate on a permanent basis, taking into account, among other things, the views of those organs.

2. To recognize the following progress made in the specific areas of the inter-American human rights system, namely:

- a. The broad process of reflection on the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights, within the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council;
- b. The dialogue held on March 30, 2007, within the CAJP, between member states and the organs of the inter-American human rights system (Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights), as recorded in the report of the meeting (CP/CAJP-2526/07);
- c. The signature by Argentina of the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty; the deposit by Bolivia of the instrument of ratification of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador," and of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; the deposit by Ecuador of the instrument of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons; and the ratification by the Dominican Republic and by Venezuela

of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities; and

- d. The voluntary contributions to facilitate the work of the organs of the inter-American human rights system made by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, the United States, and Venezuela; by Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain, and Sweden; and also by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Open Society Foundation, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to meet the objectives mentioned in operative paragraph 1 and to complement and consolidate the progress referred to in operative paragraph 2, by:

- a. Continuing the broad process of reflection on the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights, initiated within the CAJP, in consultation with the member states, specialized agencies of the inter-American human rights system, nongovernmental organizations, national human rights institutes, academic institutions, and experts in the field, regarding:
 - i. The major challenges facing the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Hemisphere;
 - ii. Possible actions to strengthen and improve the system; and
 - iii. The advisability of convening an inter-American human rights conference;
- b. Continuing to examine, principally through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) of the Permanent Council, ways to bring about adequate financing of the organs of the inter-American human rights system in the program-budget of the Organization;
- c. Supporting any initiatives taken by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to request funding from international and regional agencies to further the activities of the organs of the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- d. Encouraging, in addition, member states to contribute to the Specific Fund for Strengthening the Inter-American System for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights;
- e. Continuing to consider ways to promote compliance with the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and follow-up of the

recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights by member states;

- f. Continuing to analyze the priorities for improvement of the inter-American human rights system, including consideration of the possibility that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights may come to operate on a permanent basis, taking into account related information provided by the presidents of both organs;
- g. Holding each year, within the CAJP, the dialogue between the member states and the members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and judges on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on how the inter-American human rights system operates. The CAJP will establish the agenda for said meeting at least two months in advance; and
- h. Requesting the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to:
 - i. Continue to report on the correlation between, on the one hand, their respective Rules of Procedure and the amendments thereto that they adopt, and, on the other, the provisions of their respective Statutes and of the American Convention on Human Rights; and
 - ii. Continue to report on the impact and the meaning in practice of these regulatory reforms for the work of both organs and for the strengthening of the system.

4. To continue to promote the strengthening of national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights in member states; and, to that end, to urge the pertinent organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to provide, in accordance with their capabilities and resources, cooperation and technical support to the member states that so request, in order to help enhance compliance with their international human rights obligations, and to develop cooperative relations and information exchange with, *inter alia*, the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen, the Caribbean Ombudsmen's Association, the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas, the Andean Council of Ombudsmen, and the Central American Ombudsman Council.

5. To urge member states to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador."

6. To request the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2292 (XXXVII-O/07)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (AG/doc.4761/07);

CONSIDERING:

That in the Declaration of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001) the Heads of State and Government stated that their “commitment to full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is based on shared principles and convictions” and that they supported “strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the inter American human rights system, which includes . . . the Inter-American Court of Human Rights”;

That in the Declaration and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) the Heads of State and Government recognized that the promotion and protection of human rights, on the basis of the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence, are essential to the functioning of democratic societies. Likewise, they undertook “[t]o continue supporting and strengthening the functioning of the bodies of the Inter-American System of Human Rights, promoting within the political bodies of the OAS, in the framework of the ongoing reflection process, concrete actions to achieve, among other objectives, greater adhesion to the legal instruments, an effective observance of the decisions by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and due consideration of the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, and the improvement of access of the victims to the mechanisms of the system, and the adequate financing of the bodies of the System, including the fostering of voluntary contributions”;

That Article 54.f of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that it is a function of the General Assembly to consider the observations and recommendations presented by the Permanent Council on the reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, in accordance with Article 91.f of the Charter; and

That Article 65 of the American Convention on Human Rights establishes that “to each regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States the Court shall submit, for the Assembly’s consideration, a report on its work during the previous year. It shall specify, in particular, the cases in which a state has not complied with its judgments, making any pertinent recommendations”;

UNDERSCORING WITH SATISFACTION the efficient work done by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the exercise of its advisory functions; and in particular its substantial output in 2006 with respect to its contentious functions; and

EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION for the offers of the Governments of Chile, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Colombia to host special sessions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as a means of promoting the inter-American human rights system,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (AG/doc.4761/07) and to forward them to that organ.
2. To reaffirm the essential value of the work of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in enhancing the protection and defense of human rights in the Hemisphere.
3. To reiterate that the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights are final and may not be appealed, and that the states parties to the American Convention on Human Rights undertake to comply with the decisions of the Court in all cases to which they are party.
4. To reiterate the need for states parties to provide, in a timely fashion, the information requested by the Court in order to enable it to fully meet its obligation to report to the General Assembly on compliance with its judgments.
5. To reaffirm the importance of:
 - a. The advisory function of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the development of inter-American jurisprudence and international human rights law and, in that context, to take note of Advisory Opinion OC-19/05, “Control of Legality in the Exercise of the Functions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights”; and
 - b. The jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the effective exercise of and respect for human rights in the Hemisphere; and consequently the importance of the dissemination of its decisions by the member states, as they deem it appropriate.
6. To instruct the Permanent Council to:
 - a. Continue its consideration of the issue of “Access of victims to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (*jus standi*) and its application in practice,” including its financial and budgetary implications, taking into account the report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights entitled “Bases for a Draft Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Strengthen Its Mechanism for Protection – Volume II”; the proposal presented by the Government of Costa Rica, “Draft Optional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights”; the revised Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; and taking into account the need to maintain

procedural equity and to redefine the role of the Commission in proceedings before the Court;

- b. Continue to consider means of encouraging compliance by member states with the judgments of the Court; and
- c. Instruct the Permanent Council to continue analyzing ways to achieve an effective increase of the financial resources allocated to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the program-budget of the Organization. To that end, thank the Secretary General of the Organization for his work and urge him to continue his efforts and present additional proposals for achieving adequate funding for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the program-budget of the Organization.

7. To thank the member states (Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico) and permanent observers (the European Union, Norway, and Spain) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which have made voluntary contributions to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition, to urge member states to contribute to the Specific Fund for Strengthening the Inter-American System for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights; and to encourage permanent observers and other donors in accordance with Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat to make voluntary contributions to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

8. To encourage member states to continue to invite the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to hold special sessions away from its headquarters.

9. To urge the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights to continue to hold specialized seminars on the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights for government officials.

10. To invite the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to continue to participate, with its judges, in the dialogue with member states in the reflection process on strengthening the inter-American human rights system, within the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

11. To thank the Court for its willingness to dialogue with member states as part of the joint reflection process in the event of possible reforms to its Rules of Procedure.

12. To urge member states to consider the signature and ratification of, or accession to, as the case may be, the American Convention on Human Rights and other instruments of the system, including acceptance of the binding jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

13. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2293 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROMOTION OF AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1270 (XXIV-O/94), AG/RES. 1335 (XXV-O/95), 1408 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1503 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1565 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1619 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1706 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1709 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1770 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1771 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1904 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1944 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2052 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2127 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2226 (XXXVI-O/06), and AG/RES. 2231 (XXXVI-O/06);

RECALLING ALSO that, under the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and pursuant to all applicable provisions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law within their respective spheres of application, human rights and fundamental freedoms must always be respected, including in situations of armed conflict;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the persisting violations of international humanitarian law that continue to cause suffering to all victims of armed conflict;

WELCOMING the goals of resolution 61/89 of the United Nations General Assembly; and urging states to consider participation in discussions on the feasibility, scope, and parameters of a broad, legally binding draft instrument on trade in conventional weapons;

RECALLING that it is the obligation of all member states, in all circumstances, to respect and ensure respect for the 1949 Geneva Conventions;

CONSIDERING that international humanitarian law contains provisions that reflect customary international law that states must observe;

EMPHASIZING that in cases of serious violations of international humanitarian law constituting crimes under international law, states have the duty to investigate, and if there is sufficient evidence, the duty to submit to prosecution the person allegedly responsible for the violations, and if said person is found guilty, the duty to punish him/her;

EMPHASIZING ALSO the obligation of states to take all necessary measures, including, when applicable, penal sanctions, for the suppression of other breaches;

UNDERSCORING the need to strengthen the rules of international humanitarian law by means of their universal acceptance, their broader dissemination, and the adoption of national measures for their application;

WELCOMING the universal adoption of the four 1949 Geneva Conventions on the protection of victims of war, to which 194 states are parties to date;

RECALLING that June 8, 2007, will be the 30th anniversary of the adoption of Additional Protocols I and II, of 1977, to which 34 and 33 OAS member states, respectively, are parties;

RECALLING ALSO that 11 member states have issued the declaration envisioned in Article 90 of Additional Protocol I, of 1977, on recognition of the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, and that on December 7, 2006, its 15 members were elected, including representatives of Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay;

AWARE of the Hemisphere's rich cultural heritage, which contains cultural assets recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as world heritage, and which could benefit from the systems for the promotion and protection of international humanitarian law;

WELCOMING the entry into force, on January 14, 2007, of the third Additional Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, on the adoption of the red crystal as a distinctive emblem additional to the red cross and the red crescent, and its ratification by Honduras on December 8, 2006, and by the United States of America on March 8, 2007;

OBSERVING the entry into force, on November 12, 2006, of the 2003 Protocol on explosive remains of war (Protocol V) to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects;

RECALLING the adoption, on December 20, 2006, by the United Nations General Assembly, of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

RECOGNIZING the important advisory work of the national committees or commissions on international humanitarian law in support of the efforts of states in the area of promotion of and respect for that law through the adoption of national enacting measures, and that 17 member states of the Organization have such organizations;

NOTING the Second Universal Meeting of National Committees or Other National Bodies on International Humanitarian Law, on legal measures and mechanisms for preventing the disappearance of persons, elucidating the fate of all persons who have disappeared, and helping their family members, held in Geneva from March 19 to 21, 2007, in which the General Secretariat actively participated, and in which some member states that have national committees or are establishing them also took part;

NOTING ALSO the results achieved at the following meetings in which representatives of member states and OAS officials took part:

- a. United Nations Conference to Review Progress in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, June 26–July 7, 2006);
- b. Regional Meeting of Experts on Weapons in International Humanitarian Law (Buenos Aires, August 22–23, 2006);
- c. Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Geneva, November 7–17, 2006);
- d. Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Geneva, November 20–December 8, 2006);
- e. Special meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security on combating the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, their delivery systems, and related materials (Washington, D.C., December 11, 2006);
- f. Second Universal Meeting of National Committees or Other National Bodies on International Humanitarian Law (Geneva, March 19–21, 2007);
- g. Regional Seminar of National Committees on International Humanitarian Law for Latin America and the Caribbean (San José, Costa Rica, January 18–19, 2007); and
- h. Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions (Oslo, February 22–23, 2007);

COMMENDING in that sense the holding on January 31, 2007, of the first specialized course on international humanitarian law for staff of the permanent missions and of the OAS, and of the Special Meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on Current Issues in International Humanitarian Law, on February 1, 2007; and

EMPHASIZING the special role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as a neutral, impartial, and independent institution working to protect and assist the victims of armed conflicts and other situations of armed violence, as well as to promote respect for international humanitarian law and the principles underlying it,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states and the parties engaged in armed conflict to honor their obligations under international humanitarian law, including those pertaining to safeguarding the well-being and dignity of protected persons and property, and the proper treatment of prisoners of war.
2. To urge member states that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the following treaties:

- a. The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and its 1954 and 1999 Protocols, respectively;
- b. The 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention);
- c. The 1977 Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 2005 Additional Protocol III, including the declaration envisaged in Article 90 of Additional Protocol I;
- d. The 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, including the amendment to its Article I adopted in 2001 and its five protocols;
- e. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its 2000 Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts;
- f. The 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention);
- g. The 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction;
- h. The 1997 Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA);
- i. The 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- j. The 1999 Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions;
- k. The 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel; and
- l. Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem, approved on December 8, 2005.

3. To invite member states to bring about the widest possible dissemination of the rules of international humanitarian law, in particular by incorporating them into military doctrine and manuals, so that armed forces will have the means and mechanisms necessary for their effective application; and by making use of the pertinent media so that such law may be familiar to the civilian population.

4. To urge member states to adapt their criminal law in order to meet their legal obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and, in the case of the states parties thereto, the 1977 Additional Protocol I thereto with respect to the definition of war crimes, the complementary universal jurisdiction, and the responsibility of superiors.

5. To invite member states that are parties to the Rome Statute to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court and to define under their criminal law the crimes that are within its jurisdiction.

6. To call upon member states to enact laws to regulate the use of and to prevent and, when applicable, punish the misuse of the red cross, red crescent, and, where applicable, red crystal emblems, as well as their denominations, as established in relevant treaties.

7. To urge member states, in keeping with their obligations under international law, to adopt effective measures to prevent the disappearance of persons in cases of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence, to determine the fate of those who have disappeared, and to attend to the needs of their family members.

8. To encourage member states to ensure the adoption of the necessary measures and mechanisms to protect cultural property from the effects of armed conflict, in accordance with their international obligations, and in particular to give consideration to the adoption of preventive measures related to the preparation of inventories, the planning of emergency measures, the appointment of competent authorities, and the enactment of laws to ensure respect for such property.

9. To remind those member states that are parties to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction of their obligation to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited therein when it is carried out by persons or in territory under their jurisdiction or control and of the importance of addressing the needs of victims of antipersonnel mines and, where appropriate, victims of explosive remnants of war, considering, as part of those needs, medical care, rehabilitation, and economic and social reintegration of the victims; and to invite member states to participate actively in the eighth meeting of states parties to the Convention, from November 18 to 22, 2007.

10. To urge member states to adopt, in accordance with their constitutional processes, legislative and other measures, including penal legislation, to implement fully the provisions of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, and the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as to consider ways and means to enhance national implementation and regional and subregional cooperation on implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

11. To call upon member states to adopt all necessary measures to comply with their respective international legal obligations regarding the recruitment and use of children in armed forces or armed groups and to prevent their participation in hostilities, in accordance with recognized standards of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law.

12. To invite member states to consider adopting the appropriate measures, at the national and international levels, to address the grave humanitarian consequences of the unregulated

availability of arms, in particular the enactment of laws aimed at strengthening control over the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and other related materials, bearing in mind the pertinent provisions of international humanitarian law as one of the criteria for the manufacturing and transfer of weapons, as well as the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (2001) and the results of its 2006 Review Conference.

13. To encourage member states to establish procedures for determining, when studying, developing, acquiring, or adopting a new weapon or new means or methods of warfare, whether using, manufacturing, stockpiling, exporting, or transferring them would be contrary to international humanitarian law, and, in that event, to prohibit their use by the armed forces and their manufacture for such purposes.

14. To appeal to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to address the problems identified in resolution 61/89 of the United Nations General Assembly.

15. To recognize the humanitarian consequences of the use of cluster munitions; and to invite states to participate, in the pertinent forum, in ongoing discussions about how to address these consequences.

16. To invite member states to participate actively in the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and to consider presenting pledges concerning the promotion of and respect for international humanitarian law.

17. To invite member states to continue to support the work of national committees or commissions responsible for the dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law; and to urge states where such bodies do not exist to consider establishing them, as a means of strengthening conflict prevention and the role those bodies play in times of peace.

18. To request the Inter-American Juridical Committee to prepare and propose model laws supporting efforts to implement treaty obligations concerning international humanitarian law, on the basis of priority topics identified in consultation with the member states and the ICRC, and to present a progress report on this matter prior to the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

19. To express its satisfaction over the cooperation between the Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting respect for international humanitarian law and the principles that govern that law; and to urge the General Secretariat to continue to strengthen such cooperation.

20. To request the General Secretariat to continue organizing, in the context of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, through the Office of International Law of its Department of International Legal Affairs, and in coordination with the ICRC, courses and seminars for staff of the permanent missions of the member states to the Organization of American States and for General Secretariat staff and the general public, in order to promote knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law and related inter-American conventions, including measures for their effective implementation.

21. To instruct the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting, with support from the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs, and in cooperation with the ICRC, on topics of current interest in international humanitarian law, including a high-level dialogue, prior to the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

22. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2294 (XXXVII-O/07)

AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1022 (XIX-O/89), AG/RES. 1479 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1549 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1610 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1708 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1780 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1851 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1919 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2029 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2073 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2234 (XXXVI-O/06); and

HAVING SEEN the report of the Chair of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the activities carried out in 2006 and 2007 (GT/DADIN/doc.307/07 corr. 1) and the holding of the Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Meetings of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that the adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples remains a priority for the Organization of American States (OAS), emphasizing the importance of full and effective participation by the indigenous peoples in preparing the draft Declaration.

2. To renew the mandate of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to continue holding its meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus, so as to complete the drafting of the Declaration, on the basis of the "Record of the Current Status of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (GT/DADIN/doc.301/07) and taking into account the "Compendium of Proposals of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus Held by the Working Group" (GT/DADIN/doc.255/06 rev. 2 and add. 1) and other pertinent documents of the Working Group.

3. To request the Permanent Council to instruct the Working Group to:

- a. Hold a special two-day meeting at OAS headquarters in September or October 2007 and before scheduling the Eleventh Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus, in order to engage in a process of reflection regarding the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The outcomes and recommendations of the two-day meeting of the Working Group will be presented the day after that meeting to a special meeting of the Permanent Council by the Chair of the Working Group and the leaders of the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus. The Permanent Council will consider those recommendations on how to strengthen the

negotiation process in the presence of representatives of the indigenous peoples;

- b. Hold up to three meetings of negotiations of up to five days each, between October 2007 and March 2008, at least one of which shall be held at OAS headquarters;
- c. Continue to take the appropriate measures to ensure continuing transparency of, and effective participation by representatives of indigenous peoples in, the negotiation meetings in the quest for points of consensus; and
- d. Emphasize the need to reach compromise solutions that are attentive to the most pressing concerns of the indigenous peoples and to the needs of all member states, in the preparation of the Draft Declaration.

4. To request the Selection Board of the Specific Fund to continue to work according to the principles established in resolution CP/RES. 873 (1459/04), "Amendments to the Specific Fund to Support the Preparation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," so as to ensure greater transparency, and to provide more information in its report on the specific reason(s) for choosing each beneficiary, ensuring that the assessments made are detailed and specific.

5. To thank Government and people of Bolivia for the successful organization of the Tenth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus.

6. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, its Special Rapporteurship on Indigenous Peoples, the Summits Secretariat, the Office of International Law of the Department of International Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat of the Organization, and the Secretary General to continue to lend their valuable support to the process of drafting the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and to thank them for their ongoing contributions to that process.

7. To request the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2295 (XXXVII-O/07)

PERSONS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AND ASSISTANCE
TO MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2231 (XXXVI-O/06) and resolutions on this subject from prior years;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the problem of missing persons and assistance to members of their families is addressed in international humanitarian law and international human rights law within their respective spheres of application, their legal frameworks being distinct;

DEEPLY CONCERNED over the suffering caused both by the disappearance of persons as a result of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence and by forced disappearances;

RECOGNIZING the need to alleviate the anxiety and uncertainty suffered by the relatives of persons who are presumed to have disappeared;

MINDFUL of the need to prevent the disappearance of persons, to ascertain the fate of those who have disappeared, and to respond to the needs of members of their families, both in situations of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence and in cases of forced disappearances;

GUIDED by the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977 thereto, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man of 1948, the American Convention on Human Rights of 1969, the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons of 1994, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of 2006, and applicable international law;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution 59/189, "Missing persons," adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 20, 2004; resolution 2005/66, "Right to the Truth," adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on April 20, 2005; resolution 2005/26, "Human Rights and Forensic Science," adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on April 19, 2005; the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16, 2005; decision 2/105, "Right to the truth," adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in November 2006; and resolution 61/155, "Missing persons," adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 19, 2006; and

RECALLING the Declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian Action, adopted by resolution 1 of the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from December 2 to 6, 2003, which address the question of persons missing as a result of an armed conflict or other situations of armed violence,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all parties involved in armed conflict and actors in other situations of armed violence to prevent the disappearance of persons, in accordance with applicable international law.
2. To encourage member states to continue moving forward in preventing the forced disappearance of persons by considering, where appropriate, the adoption of laws, regulations, and/or instructions requiring the establishment of official registries in which records will be kept of all detained persons, among other reasons to allow, as appropriate, family members, other interested persons, judicial authorities, and/or bodies that have a recognized mandate to protect detainees to learn, within a short period of time, of any detention that has taken place, all of the foregoing without interfering with appropriate communications between detainees and their families.
3. To urge member states to step up their efforts to shed light on the fate of persons who have disappeared and, to that end, to ensure that authorities and all mechanisms involved coordinate their work, cooperate among themselves, and complement one another's efforts.
4. To urge member states to maintain, in keeping with their legal and administrative organization, complete birth and death records, and also to establish registries to collect and centralize information on persons presumed to have disappeared.
5. To urge member states to ensure that disappearance cases are impartially investigated by the competent authorities, in accordance with their international obligations and domestic legislation, and that the families of persons presumed to have disappeared are systematically involved in the efforts to clarify what has happened to them.
6. To encourage member states to address as fully as possible the psychological, social, legal, and material needs of the families of presumed victims of disappearances through measures including, where appropriate, provision of periodic information to relatives on the efforts to cast light on the fate of the disappeared and on their whereabouts.
7. To encourage member states to consider enacting, as applicable, domestic laws that recognize the situation of the families of disappearance victims, taking into account the specific needs and particular interests of women heads of household and children, including the consequences of disappearances on property management, child custody, parental rights, and marital status, as well as devising adequate compensation programs.
8. To urge member states to ensure that human remains are treated with due respect and in accordance with national and international practices and standards and legal and ethical standards applicable to the collection, exhumation, and management of unidentified remains, in order to assemble all the information needed to identify them and to ascertain the facts that led to that situation.

9. To encourage member states to take appropriate measures to ensure that the collection, exhumation, and management of human remains and other related procedures are carried out by forensic experts, respecting, if applicable, traditional practices.

10. To urge member states to ensure that fully identified human remains are returned to families and that the respective death certificates are issued.

11. To urge member states to punish those found guilty of violating, in armed conflict and other situations of armed violence, provisions of international human rights law and/or international humanitarian law, within their respective spheres of application, that protect persons from disappearances, in particular, forced disappearances.

12. To urge member states to adopt necessary legislative and/or administrative measures to prevent the systematic and deliberate denial of information exchange among families; obstacles to the provision of information on disappearance victims, in particular regarding identification processes; the illicit withholding of accessible information on a death or its cause and the reasons for or circumstances of a death; the destruction of evidence likely to clarify the fate of a person presumed to be missing; and the pillaging, desecration, or mutilation of the deceased.

13. To urge member states to ensure adequate protection of the personal data gathered in connection with disappeared persons, in accordance with the law.

14. To urge member states to cooperate among themselves in addressing the various aspects of the problem of the disappearance of persons, including in the area of support for families, the search for missing persons, collection, exhumation, and identification of human remains, and mutual assistance in criminal proceedings.

15. To encourage member states to request support from international and civil society organizations to address the problem of the disappearance of persons.

16. To invite member states to continue their cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, a recognized humanitarian institution, in its various areas of responsibility, and to facilitate its work.

17. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

18. To urge states, as applicable, to endeavor to carry out the mandates set forth in this resolution on an ongoing basis.

19. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution.

AG/RES. 2296 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROTECTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS
AND REFUGEES IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 2232 (XXXVI-O/06), "Protection of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Returnees in the Americas," and its resolutions AG/RES. 1762 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1832 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1892 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1971 (XXXIII-O/03), and AG/RES. 2047 (XXXIV-O/04);

WELCOMING the fact that 28 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have acceded to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and 30 to its 1967 Protocol; that, in 2006, Argentina, Costa Rica, and Uruguay adopted new domestic legal provisions for the protection of refugees; and that Chile, Mexico, and Nicaragua are in the process of adopting new domestic legislation on refugees;

RECOGNIZING the commitment assumed by OAS member states to continue extending protection to asylum seekers and refugees on the basis of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and to seek lasting solutions to their situation;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the efforts that countries of origin are making, with support from the international community, to deal with the circumstances that generate waves of persons seeking asylum, and the importance of persisting in those efforts;

EMPHASIZING the efforts made by some receiving countries of the region, faithful to their generous tradition of asylum even under difficult socioeconomic conditions, to continue extending protection to asylum seekers and refugees;

UNDERSCORING the importance of implementation of the Mexico Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, adopted by 20 Latin American states on November 16, 2004, in Mexico City, in the framework of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration, which has enabled needs for protection to be addressed and progress to be made in the quest for durable solutions for refugees in the region;

WELCOMING the initiatives taken in accordance with that Plan of Action by Argentina, Brazil, and Chile to establish and implement the Regional Solidarity Resettlement Program, and the recent incorporation of Paraguay and Uruguay into said program; and

RECOGNIZING the responsibility of states to provide international protection to refugees, as well as the need for international technical and financial cooperation to find durable solutions based on the principles of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its support for, and emphasize the relevance and fundamental importance of, the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol, as the principal universal instruments for the protection of refugees; and to urge the member states that are parties thereto to continue to implement fully and effectively all of their obligations in that regard.
2. To urge those states parties that have not yet done so to consider, as the case may be, signing, ratifying, or acceding to the international instruments in the area of refugees, and to promote the adoption of procedures and institutional mechanisms for their effective application, in accordance with those instruments.
3. To support the Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America; and to continue implementing it fully and effectively, with support from the international community and from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
4. To urge member states and the international community to collaborate in and support the strengthening and consolidation of the “Borders of Solidarity,” “Cities of Solidarity,” and “Resettlement in Solidarity” programs proposed in the Mexico Plan of Action.
5. To call on member states and the international community to increase technical and economic cooperation to the countries of the Hemisphere that receive refugees and that so require, and to work in cooperation with the UNHCR to provide effective protection to asylum seekers and refugees in the region.
6. To recognize the efforts and the progress that the countries of origin have been making; and to encourage them, to the extent of their ability and with support from the UNHCR and the international community, to continue making efforts to deal with the circumstances that generate waves of persons seeking asylum.
7. To recognize the efforts and progress that countries of the Hemisphere that receive refugees have made in implementing protective mechanisms, in accordance with international refugee law and the international principles of refugee protection.
8. To instruct the Permanent Council to organize, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and with support from the Office of International Law of the General Secretariat and the collaboration of the UNHCR, a special meeting on current topics in international refugee law.
9. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the results of this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2297 (XXXVII-O/07)

ADDRESSING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS:
STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the sections on matters assigned to the Committee on Hemispheric Security;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1642 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1744 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1796 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1797 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1888 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1968 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1997 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2108 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2145 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06), the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of member states, in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, to “combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials by, among other actions, destroying excess stocks of firearms designated by each State, securing and managing national stockpiles, and regulating firearms brokering, including sanctions for illicit arms brokering for the purpose of avoiding their diversion through illicit channels and their proliferation”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The March 8, 2007, special meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security devoted to effective strategies to mitigate the threat posed by the use of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) by non-state actors; and

Article 8 of the CIFTA and the obligation of states parties, who, “in an effort to eliminate loss or diversion, undertake to adopt the necessary measures to ensure the security of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials imported into, exported from, or in transit through their respective territories”; and

RECOGNIZING:

The importance of the work undertaken by the General Secretariat, through the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, to assist member states in stockpile management and destruction of small arms and light weapons;

The contributions by permanent observers, the international community, and subregional and regional organizations to assist member states with greatest need in addressing the serious threat posed by the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in the Hemisphere; and

The successful efforts of the Government of Chile, the OAS General Secretariat, the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences-Chile (FLACSO-Chile), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) to organize the Stockpile Management and Destruction Seminar, on management of weapons in custody and destruction of stockpiles, in Santiago, Chile, on November 9 and 10, 2006,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to continue implementing the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (United Nations Programme of Action).
2. To encourage member states to advance their commitment to the application of the United Nations Programme of Action and the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) by strengthening measures for stockpile management and the security of arms in their national inventories.
3. To urge member states to apply the OAS Recommended Guidelines for Control and Security of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS), in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2145 (XXXV-O/05).
4. To invite member states, permanent observers, and subregional and regional organizations to consider contributing to the OAS fund established for arms collection and destruction efforts, as well as related training programs, in order to channel financial and technical resources to member states in need of assistance.
5. To encourage member states to adopt the confidence- and security-building measures proposed in the Consensus of Miami: Declaration by the Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures: Recommendations to the Summit-Mandated Special Conference on Security, in which member states are called upon “to identify excess stocks of small arms and light weapons as well as seized small arms and light weapons and, in accordance with national laws and international agreements in which they participate, to define programs for the destruction of said weapons and to invite international representatives to observe their destruction.”
6. To encourage states parties to apply the CIFTA and to implement the Declaration of Bogotá on the Functioning and Application of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), adopted at the First Conference of the States Party to the Convention.
7. To urge member states that have decided to destroy their excess small arms and light weapons and their ammunition to take full advantage of the technical assistance, training, or other support provided by the pertinent organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization.

8. To instruct the General Secretariat to develop and facilitate periodic specialized seminars on small arms, light weapons, and ammunition destruction and on stockpile management, in conjunction with relevant United Nations agencies, such as the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC).

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to compile information on national practices and on the technical and financial needs of member states for stockpile management and destruction of small arms and light weapons.

10. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare, with support from the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), a handbook on best practices for stockpile management and destruction of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.

11. To instruct the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out, as appropriate, the activities mentioned in this resolution, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

12. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

13. To request the Permanent Council and the Secretary General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2298 (XXXVII-O/07)

CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIME ESTABLISHED IN THE TREATY FOR THE
PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
(TREATY OF TLATELOLCO)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the section on the Committee on Hemispheric Security;

RECALLING its previous resolutions on this topic, especially resolutions AG/RES. 1499 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1571 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1622 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1748 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1798 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1903 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1937 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2009 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2104 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2245 (XXXVI-O/06);

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the statement issued by the states of the Hemisphere in the Declaration on Security in the Americas in which they affirmed that the establishment of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area through the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the protocols thereto constitutes a substantial contribution to international peace, security, and stability;

BEARING IN MIND that the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco was held in Mexico City on February 14, 2007;

AFFIRMING that the consolidation of the nuclear-weapon-free zone set forth in the Treaty of Tlatelolco constitutes a firm demonstration of the commitment of Latin America and the Caribbean to the cause of complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, in keeping with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

CONSIDERING that, under Article 1 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Contracting Parties undertook “to use exclusively for peaceful purposes the nuclear material and facilities which are under their jurisdiction, and to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories: (a) the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, by the Parties themselves, directly or indirectly, on behalf of anyone else or in any other way, and (b) the receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, by the Parties themselves, by anyone on their behalf or in any other way,” and that the Contracting Parties also undertook “to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, or in any way participating in the testing, use, manufacture, production, possession or control of any nuclear weapon”;

CONSIDERING ALSO that Article 17 of the said Treaty states that nothing in its provisions “shall prejudice the rights of the Contracting Parties, in conformity with this Treaty, to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in particular for their economic development and social progress”;

NOTING the dialogue initiated by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) with the nuclear-weapon states that are parties to Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, in relation to the request that they modify or withdraw their declarations on said Additional Protocols;

CONSIDERING the Santiago de Chile Declaration, adopted by the General Conference of OPANAL at its XIX Regular Session (Santiago, November 7–8, 2005);

TAKING NOTE of the coordination efforts carried out by OPANAL with other denuclearized zones in keeping with the Declaration adopted by the Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties That Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (Mexico City, April 26–28, 2005);

RECALLING that the 33 states parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco are subject to international verification under the safeguards agreements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

CONVINCED:

That the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones that comply with international criteria is an important step that significantly strengthens all aspects of the international disarmament and nonproliferation regime, thus contributing to the maintenance of peace and international security; and

That, as stated in the preamble to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, militarily denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves, but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage;

RECOGNIZING that the Treaty of Tlatelolco has become the model for the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world, such as the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), Africa (Treaty of Pelindaba), and Central Asia (Treaty of Semipalatinsk), which, when they enter into force, will cover more than half the countries of the world and all territories in the Southern Hemisphere; and

UNDERSCORING its firm support for all actions undertaken by the states parties, associated states, and OPANAL to strengthen the denuclearization regime envisaged in the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

RESOLVES:

1. To call upon those states of the region that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the amendments to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), adopted by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) in resolutions 267 (E-V), 268 (XII), and 290 (E-VII).

2. To reaffirm the importance of strengthening OPANAL as the appropriate legal and political forum for ensuring unqualified observance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in its zone of application and for promoting cooperation with the agencies of other nuclear-weapon-free zones.

3. To reaffirm its commitment to continue striving for a disarmament and nonproliferation regime that is universal, genuine, and nondiscriminatory in every aspect.

4. To call upon OPANAL, to continue, in its area of competence, to maintain appropriate ties or contact with the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and report to it periodically on the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken by the states of the region in this resolution and in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, in particular, paragraph 11 of the latter, as they pertain to nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

5. To entrust the Permanent Council with holding, in the framework of the CSH, a meeting on consolidation of the regime established in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, with the support of OPANAL and the participation of the United Nations and other international organizations competent in the area.

6. To recognize the work of OPANAL in ensuring compliance with the obligations undertaken in the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

7. To reaffirm its conviction that, throughout its four decades, the Treaty of Tlatelolco has been essential to regional and international peace and security, has paved the way for the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones, and has complemented efforts to attain general and complete disarmament.

8. To support OPANAL's cooperation and coordination mechanisms with the Treaties of Rarotonga, Bangkok, and Pelindaba, with Mongolia, and with those that may be established in the future, as well as with their respective agencies, in order to expedite the achievement of common objectives, as agreed to at the Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Mexico City in April 2005.

9. To take note of the decision of the Governments of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons in Central Asia, thus expressing their full commitment to preserving international peace and security.

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

11. To request the OAS Secretary General to forward this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Secretary General of OPANAL.

AG/RES. 2299 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROMOTION OF HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION
IN DEALING WITH CRIMINAL GANGS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the findings of studies by different international organizations and some member states on the issue of gangs, which conclude that it is a very complex matter and should be addressed from a holistic viewpoint, including, *inter alia*, prevention, social support, respect for and protection of human rights, and mutual legal assistance in international matters;

BEARING IN MIND that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has called upon member states “to foster national and regional public debate and reflection on their obligation to provide security for their citizens in a framework of full respect for fundamental guarantees and freedoms”;

RECOGNIZING that poverty, inequity, and social exclusion might, among other causes, create conditions conducive to the emergence of criminal gangs;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2144 (XXXV-O/05), “Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Gangs,” and AG/RES. 2247 (XXXVI-O/06), “Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Gangs Involved in Criminal Activities”;

STRESSING that, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government emphasized their concern over the problem of criminal gangs and related phenomena, as well as their impact on the economic and social environment, which threaten the progress our societies have made in their quest for stability, democratization, and sustainable development—a situation that requires additional urgent action to promote crime prevention, prosecute those who commit crimes, rehabilitate and reintegrate them, and create opportunities to facilitate access to decent work for young people, as expressed in Articles 2 and 3 of the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas;

NOTING the initiatives of the General Secretariat to address the phenomenon of criminal gangs, within the context of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security; and

NOTING ALSO the 2002 World Health Organization’s World Report on Violence and Health, which refers to possible links between societal violence, the use of illicit substances, drug traffickers and gangs, and the tendency of gang members involved in criminal activities to join organized crime, as well as the need for solutions that are based on preventive public health and sound social policy,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat, working in coordination with the competent organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS), to lend coordinated support to initiatives by member states aimed at preventing and fully addressing the phenomenon of criminal gangs in its diverse forms and specific manifestations, and at studying possible related aspects and its possible bearing on the social, cultural, and economic environment.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council to establish, under the coordination of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, a contact group made up of member states that are concerned or particularly affected by the phenomenon of criminal gangs to advise the General Secretariat on this matter and guide its work, which would include perfecting a regional strategy for promoting inter-American cooperation in dealing with gangs, in their various manifestations, with full respect for human rights.

3. To request the Permanent Council to hold, under the coordination of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, a special meeting devoted to analyzing the phenomenon of criminal gangs in their diverse forms and specific manifestations, using a crosscutting and integral approach. At that meeting, member states, agencies of the inter-American system, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), other international organizations, and civil society would present their views and experiences at the national, subregional, and hemispheric levels.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, and in coordination with the other pertinent areas of the Secretariat, to support preparations for that special meeting, compile background material, and subsequently present a proposed inter-American strategy for the states to consider.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and as part of the preparatory work for the special meeting mentioned in paragraph 3 above, to evaluate with PAHO and other inter-American organizations the need to establish measures to prevent gang-related violence in the Americas, and to report on the result of such evaluation at the special meeting.

6. To request the General Secretariat to identify the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS that can contribute to the fulfillment of existing national, subregional, and regional strategies to address gangs in all their forms and specific manifestations.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out, as appropriate, the activities mentioned in this resolution, in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

8. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2300 (XXXVII-O/07)

SUPPORT FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Report of the Chair of the Inter-American Defense Board to the General Assembly (CP/doc.4171/07 rev. 1);

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXII-E/06), "Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board," adopted on March 15, 2006, which established the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) as an "entity" of the Organization of American States (OAS) under Article 53 of the OAS Charter;

BEARING IN MIND that the IADB is not operational in nature and that, according to its Statutes, the purpose of the IADB is to provide the OAS and its member states with technical and educational advice and consultancy services on matters related to military and defense issues in the Hemisphere in order to contribute to the fulfillment of the OAS Charter;

WELCOMING the increased participation of member states and permanent observers of the OAS as members and permanent observers of the IADB;

WELCOMING ALSO the commitments of human and other resources made by member states of the IADB to fill the elected positions established in the Statutes;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the actions taken by the IADB since the adoption of resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXII-E/06) to comply with the provisions of these Statutes;

RECOGNIZING the invaluable role performed by the IADB in fulfillment of the mandates contained in the resolutions of the General Assembly that contribute to the implementation of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, in particular those activities related to confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) and humanitarian demining;

UNDERSCORING the activities of the IADB in its first year as an OAS entity, detailed in the Annual Report of the IADB to the General Assembly; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of the advanced academic courses on matters related to military and defense issues offered by the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) to military officers and civilian officials from OAS member states,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge those member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) that are not yet members of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) to become members of it, in accordance with Article 4.1 of its Statutes.
2. To encourage member states to strengthen and support the IADB by providing military officers and civilian officials to accomplish its purpose and functions.
3. To encourage all OAS member states to promote participation in the advanced academic courses and seminars on matters related to military and defense issues offered by the Inter-American Defense College (IADC).
4. To instruct the IADB to coordinate with the General Secretariat, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, activities related to the needs of the smaller states, which are more vulnerable to traditional threats and to new threats, concerns, and other challenges.
5. To encourage the IADB to foster and promote the participation of civil society in its meetings and activities, in accordance with its Statutes.
6. To request the IADB to promote, with other hemispheric organizations and forums of a similar nature, awareness of OAS declarations and resolutions concerning military and defense issues.
7. To call upon the member states, permanent observers, and other donors to support through voluntary contributions the activities undertaken by the IADB in carrying out its purpose.
8. To request the General Secretariat to continue providing support for the IADB within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2301 (XXXVII-O/07)

FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1364 (XXVI-O/96), “Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere,” in which the Inter-American Juridical Committee was instructed to conduct a study on the matter;

RECOGNIZING the opinion of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI/RES. II-14/96), in which the Committee unanimously concluded that “in the significant areas described above the bases and potential application of the legislation which is the subject of this Opinion are not in conformity with international law”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 1447 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1532 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1614 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1700 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1826 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1884 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1914 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1976 (XXXIV-O/04); AG/RES. 2063 (XXXV-O/05); and AG/RES. 2239 (XXXVI-O/06); and

CONSIDERING the Report of the Permanent Council on Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere (CP/doc.4229/07),

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Report of the Permanent Council on Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere, presented pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2239 (XXXVI-O/06).
2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on developments in this regard.

AG/RES. 2302 (XXXVII-O/07)

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES 78 AND 80 OF THE GENERAL STANDARDS
TO GOVERN THE OPERATIONS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Report of the Chair of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs on the proposed amendment of Articles 78 and 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat;

CONSIDERING:

That, through paragraph II.2.iv of resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06), of June 6, 2006, the General Assembly established that the Organization's program-budget for 2007 would be financed in part by income of \$2,532,300 for technical supervision and administrative support from trust and specific funds;

That, through paragraph III.A.7.2, "Recovery of indirect costs," of resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06), the General Assembly instructed the Secretary General to analyze the General Secretariat's cost recovery policy for technical supervision and administrative support of all funds administered by the General Secretariat and to present a report to the Permanent Council for consideration, that proposes amendments to the General Standards as required, so as to reflect a new cost recovery policy that is coherent, consistent, and reasonable; and

That, through paragraph III.A.10 of resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06), the General Assembly authorized the Permanent Council to consider, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs, the proposals made by the Secretary General to amend the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and, if necessary, to approve them *ad referendum* of the General Assembly;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the proposal of the Secretary General to amend Articles 78 and 80 of the General Standards in order to more clearly set out the policy of the Organization with regard to the recovery of direct and indirect costs connected with contributions in support of the Organization's specific fund projects and programs;

CONSIDERING the report presented to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs by the Inspector General on the recovery of indirect costs, as instructed by the General Assembly through resolutions AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Financial Handbook for Specific Fund Agreements, published by the General Secretariat;

BEARING IN MIND that the proposed amendments to Articles 78 and 80 of the General Standards will help the General Secretariat meet its fiduciary responsibilities to the member states and to the donors more transparently, by providing them with more accurate, timely information on the impact of specific fund activities on the General Secretariat's work; and that this information then will assist the political organs in making more informed decisions on the utilization of Regular Fund resources and will facilitate the movement of the General Secretariat to a grant-management environment; and

BEARING IN MIND ALSO that the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs, at its meeting of April 12, 2007, considered and approved the amendments to Articles 78 and 80 of the General Standards, requested by the Secretary General,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the amendments to Articles 78 and 80 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, as follows:^{1/}

Article 78. Banking Deposits, ~~and~~ Interest, and Indirect Costs. The following provisions shall govern the designation of banking institutions, ~~and~~ the crediting of interest to funds administered by the General Secretariat, **and the crediting of indirect cost recovery funds administered by the General Secretariat:**

- a. The Secretary General shall designate the banking institutions in which the funds of the Organization and those entrusted to it shall be deposited. ~~Regarding the designation of banking institutions for deposit of funds administered under the FEMCIDI Statutes by the IACD, the Secretary General shall take into account guidelines established by the IACD Management Board.~~
- b. Interest earned by the Regular Fund shall be credited to that fund, and interest earned by FEMCIDI shall be credited to FEMCIDI.
- c. Interest earned by each Specific Fund ~~or Trust Fund~~ established under Articles 74 ~~and 75~~ of these General Standards shall be credited to ~~that Fund. However, for each Specific Fund and Trust Fund for which the donor has not otherwise provided the corresponding funds to cover the overhead for administrative support and technical supervision costs of the activities financed by that Fund, the interest earned shall be credited to the Regular Fund or to the IACD Fund for Operations established in the IACD Statutes, as the case may be, in the amount necessary to cover those costs~~ **the Service Account of Specific Funds established for Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR).**
 - i. **Interest earned by the Specific Funds will defray part of the indirect costs referred to in Article 80 of these General**

1. New text in **bold**; deleted text in ~~strikeout~~.

Standards, unless otherwise specified in the corresponding agreement with the donor.

- ii. In-kind contributions may be accepted by the General Secretariat to defray part of the indirect costs referred to in Article 80 of these General Standards, unless otherwise specified in the corresponding agreement with the donor.
 - iii. The General Secretariat's semiannual ~~regular~~ reports to the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the use of the funds administered by the General Secretariat shall include all accreditations and disbursements from the Service Account of the Specific Funds established for the recovery of indirect costs, including: the source and use of the money collected for each technical area within the General Secretariat, and the total interest earned. These reports shall also include disbursements made from that Account to supplement income to the Regular Fund, as required by the General Assembly in the approved annual program-budget of the Organization.
 - iv. The Secretary General may make exceptions to the provisions in this paragraph c, and he shall inform the Permanent Council semiannually ~~each quarter~~ of any such exceptions made.
- d. The interest earned by each Trust Fund established under Article 75 of these General Standards shall be credited to that fund.
- ~~d.e. The annual Financial Report of the General Secretariat shall report on a semi-annual basis to the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the accreditation and utilization of interest earned by each Specific Fund. shall state how the interest from each Specific Fund has been credited, and the regular reports provided by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development to the IACD Management Board and to CEPCIDI in accordance with the IACD Statutes shall state how the interest from each Specific Fund administered by the IACD has been credited.~~

Article 80. Direct Costs and Recovery of Indirect Costs. ~~Contributions for Technical Supervision and Administrative Support.~~ The following provisions shall govern direct costs and the recovery of indirect costs incurred by the General Secretariat in the administration of projects: ~~contributions for technical supervision and administrative support to the Regular Fund and to the IACD Fund for Operations.~~

- a. Direct costs. Costs that can be attributed to a particular activity or project with a high degree of accuracy (e.g.: personnel, travel, supplies, equipment, narrative and fiscal reports, external specific audit, etc.).

- b. **Indirect costs.** Costs that are incurred for a common purpose which cannot be easily attributed to a particular activity or project (e.g.: financial reporting, procurement of goods and services, legal and financial review of donor agreements, etc.).
- c. The budget for every project of the General Secretariat funded all or in part by Specific Funds and Trust Funds shall include all the Direct Costs, as well as a line item for recovery of Indirect Costs, and it shall indicate their source of financing.
- d. The General Secretariat shall establish the rate for the recovery of indirect costs for projects funded by the Specific Funds and Trust Funds, and it shall semiannually inform the Permanent Council regarding the amount recovered for indirect costs and their use by the General Secretariat.
- e. The General Secretariat may recover from Trust Funds a reasonable amount for the cost of administering those funds and for the fiduciary services provided by the General Secretariat, as established in the pertinent trust documents and applicable law. In implementing this provision for any year for a particular Trust Fund, the General Secretariat shall seek first to recover those costs from the income earned by that fund in that year, so as to maximize the objective of preserving fund capital.
- f.a. Contributions to the Regular Fund for the cost of technical supervision and administrative support to the programs shall be made by FEMCIDI. The contribution shall be up to 15 percent, and the basis for its calculation will be the total net amount of the ~~programs~~ **contribution in the Organization's fiscal year.**
- g.b. — When the appropriations financed by de-obligations of funds of previous years are approved, they shall not be subject to ~~a new~~ **the** contribution for technical supervision and administrative support. At the end of each budgetary execution, the General Secretariat shall present a statement of de-obligated resources from which the supervision and support percentage contribution has been deducted and which will be transferred to the reserves of the respective fund. On the basis of that information, the General Secretariat will inform the administrator of the respective fund of the amount at which those deductions shall begin.
- e. — ~~Specific Funds and Trust Funds administered by the IACD shall make a contribution to the IACD's Fund for Operations to cover technical supervision and administrative support provided for the activities financed by those Funds. The contribution shall be negotiated by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development.~~

- ~~d. All other Specific Funds and Trust Funds shall make a contribution to the Regular Fund to cover technical supervision and administrative support provided for the activities financed by those Funds. The contribution shall be negotiated by the General Secretariat.~~
- h.e.** During budget execution, periodic deductions shall be made based on the amount of obligations of FEMCIDI, ~~of the Specific Funds, and of the Trust Funds,~~ in accordance with the established levels, and those deductions shall be paid to the Regular Fund ~~or to the IACD's Fund for Operations, as the case may be.~~
- i.f.** The following funds shall be exempt from the **recovery of indirect costs and other reimbursement** requirements under this article:
 - ~~i. Funds amounting to less than US \$100,000 for the fiscal period;~~
 - A. Contributions by a Member State government totaling no more than \$20,000 in the Organization's fiscal year to an ongoing activity.**
 - B. FONDEM (Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund);**
 - C. All Specific Funds and Trust Funds administered by the ~~IACD~~ General Secretariat and designated by CEPCIDI or the Permanent Council as Humanitarian Funds; and**
 - D. The Capital Fund for OAS Fellowship, Scholarship, and Training Programs;**
 - E. The Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund;**
 - F. The OAS Medical Benefits Trust Fund;**
 - G. The Rowe Memorial Benefit Fund;**
 - H. The OAS Retirement and Pension Fund;**
 - I. The OAS Tax Reimbursement Fund; and**
 - J. Other funds established for the financing of staff benefits as designated by the Secretary General.**
- 2. That:**
 - a.** The Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) policy established by these amendments shall not be applicable to funds received by the General Secretariat prior to the entry into force of the General Secretariat's ICR policy;
 - b.** The ICR policy established by these amendments shall be applicable to all grants and agreements and all amendments to them that are signed and/or accepted by the General Secretariat and to all contributions that are received by the General Secretariat after the entry into force of the General Secretariat's ICR policy.

AG/RES. 2303 (XXXVII-O/07)

STRENGTHENING MECHANISMS FOR POLICY DIALOGUE
FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 143 (IX-O/04) and CIDI/RES. 163 (X-O/05), “Strengthening Mechanisms for Policy Dialogue for Integral Development”; CIDI/RES. 179 (XI-O/06), “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development”; and CIDI/RES. 192 (XII-O/07), “Strengthening Mechanisms for Policy Dialogue for Integral Development”; and

Resolutions AG/RES. 1981 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2077 (XXXV-O/05), “Strengthening Mechanisms for Policy Dialogue for Integral Development,” and AG/RES. 2203 (XXXVI-O/06), “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development”;

CONSIDERING:

That Article 31 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes that inter-American cooperation for integral development is the common and joint responsibility of member states, within the framework of the democratic principles and the institutions of the inter-American system;

That, in the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, Mexico, 2004), the Heads of State and Government recognized the urgent need for the OAS to strengthen mechanisms for combating poverty, such as the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI);

That, at the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the Heads of State and Government recognized the central role that the OAS plays in supporting the Summits of the Americas process. Further they gave instructions for the strengthening and reform, where appropriate, of the Organization’s institutional and financial mechanisms for supporting the Summits of the Americas process with regard to technical secretariat and support functions for ministerial and sectoral meetings on issues of importance to the Organization;

That the 1993 Protocol of Managua established CIDI in order to make OAS technical cooperation an effective and efficient tool to assist member states in their efforts to achieve integral development and eliminate poverty;

That sectoral meetings at the ministerial level and meetings of the inter-American committees within the framework of CIDI have generated great dynamism in the follow-up of the Summits of the Americas; and

That partnership-for-development efforts, in which countries at different stages of development and with different levels of experience participate, take place at two levels: the political level, intended to strengthen dialogue, agreements, and institutional mechanisms in order to identify priority areas to ensure targeted implementation, and the technical cooperation level, aimed at implementing political decisions and priorities through cooperation activities, programs, and projects, within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009; and

BEARING IN MIND:

The need to strengthen partnership for development and to invest cooperation mechanisms within the inter-American system with greater coherence, relying on cooperation from international agencies for support to member states in the design of policies and in the preparation and implementation of the priority cooperation programs, projects, and activities of the member states;

The importance of the Summits of the Americas, ministerial meetings, and the inter-American committees in defining priorities to ensure targeted implementation of partnership for development, and the role that the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) should play in increasing the effectiveness of said implementation and in confronting the challenges of economic growth, alleviation of extreme poverty, and democratic governance;

That CIDI is the main inter-American forum for dialogue on integral development issues, and that it should generate mechanisms for strengthening partnership for development and act as a catalyst for mobilizing human, technical, and financial resources, and as a coordinator, within the OAS, for implementation of the mandates emanating from the Summits of the Americas process, in accordance with the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009; and

That Executive Order No. 05-03 rev. 3 established that the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) shall consist of the following departments: Follow-up, Policies, and Programs; Education and Culture; Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness; Sustainable Development; Social Development and Employment; and Science and Technology, for the purpose, *inter alia*, of contributing to strengthening mechanisms for policy dialogue,

RESOLVES:

1. To agree that the meetings of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development, must play a more active role in intersectoral coordination and sharing of experiences.

2. To reiterate its commitment to continue strengthening those mechanisms for policy dialogue and partnership for development that assist member states in their efforts to achieve integral development and combat poverty.

3. To reiterate that the cooperation programs, projects, activities, and initiatives generated by member states, within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009, must respond to the mandates of the General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas, and to the policies and guidelines established at ministerial meetings and/or meetings of the inter-American committees in order to ensure targeted implementation of partnership for development and the reinforcement of cooperation strategies arising therefrom.

4. To entrust the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) with conducting a comprehensive examination of the operations and funding of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) and with presenting its conclusions and recommendations to CIDI in 2008. To this end, CEPCIDI will take into account the recommendations handed down by the relevant organs, in particular those of the Management Board of the IACD.

5. To remind the sectoral authorities that, through decisions adopted at their meetings held within the framework of CIDI, they may recommend modifications to the mandates in the areas of action established in the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009. The modifications will be considered by CIDI for adoption and subsequent incorporation into the Strategic Plan.

6. To request authorities involved in the sectoral processes to ensure coordination with other member states in the preparation of ministerial meetings and meetings of the inter-American committees, with support from the General Secretariat and, in particular, the units and offices that serve as technical secretariats for those processes, so as to allow for substantive dialogue with a view to formulating policies, defining priorities, and developing activities.

7. To suggest to the sectoral authorities that, in preparing for, conducting, and following up on ministerial meetings and/or meetings of the inter-American committees, they give consideration to active participation by the relevant international organs, agencies, and entities, particularly those of the inter-American system, to enable member states to benefit from their skills, knowledge, and experiences in defining policies and in designing and implementing partnership-for-development programs, projects, and activities.

8. To instruct the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and, in particular, its offices responsible for serving as technical secretariats for sectoral processes within CIDI to give preference to said processes in their activities and to ensure that this is reflected in any work plans and reports they present.

9. To instruct SEDI, in coordination with the Summits Secretariat, to support linkages between ministerial meetings and meetings of the inter-American committees and the Summits of the Americas process, as well as the distribution of information to the follow-up mechanisms of that process.

10. To instruct SEDI to prepare a progress report on achievement of the objectives of the current Strategic Plan and present it to CIDI at its 13th regular meeting, in order to facilitate CEPCIDI's evaluation of the Plan.

11. To instruct CIDI to continue considering mechanisms and methods for furthering the process of strengthening policy dialogue and partnership for development, particularly as regards follow-up to the Summits process; the structure, representation, nature, and purpose of CIDI's regular and special meetings and their relationship with CEPCIDI; and the role that could be played by national development and/or cooperation agencies or entities, and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2304 (XXXVII-O/07)

STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL COOPERATION
FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 144 (IX-O/04) and CIDI/RES. 163 (X-O/05), “Strengthening Technical Cooperation for Integral Development”; CIDI/RES. 179 (XI-O/06), “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development”; and CIDI/RES. 193 (XII-O/07), “Strengthening Technical Cooperation for Integral Development”; and

Resolutions AG/RES. 1982 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2078 (XXXV-O/05), “Strengthening Technical Cooperation for Integral Development,” and AG/RES. 2203 (XXXVI-O/06), “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development”; and

CONSIDERING:

That, according to Article 94 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Article 1 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), CIDI is an organ of the OAS whose purpose is to promote cooperation among the American states for the purpose of achieving integral development and, in particular, helping to eliminate extreme poverty;

That the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009 provides that technical cooperation is important and embraces all member states, regardless of their level of development;

That the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) is funded with voluntary contributions from member states and that its purpose is to contribute to the financing of national and multinational cooperation programs, projects, and activities carried out under the Strategic Plan;

That the technical quality of the projects influences funding potential and effective project execution;

That it is necessary to develop a strategy for raising external funds to complement the important efforts of member states, so as to strengthen FEMCIDI’s capacity to fund more projects;

The need for the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) to define, within its sphere of competence, guidelines and strategies for raising and managing additional funds from different sources to finance cooperation activities;

That the Strategic Plan indicates that, in the spirit of partnership for development, national institutions taking part in cooperation activities will have to take into account the priority areas and the guidelines contained in the Strategic Plan, to ensure that the projects and activities related to the Plan are tied to mandates of the Summits, ministerial meetings, and/or meetings of the inter-American committees, and give priority to those of a multinational character;

That CIDI, in its resolution CIDI/RES. 143 (IX-O/04), decided that cooperation programs, projects, activities, and initiatives generated by member states, within the framework of the Strategic Plan, must respond to the mandates of the General Assembly, the Summits of the Americas, the ministerial meetings and/or the inter-American committees so that cooperation strategies deriving therefrom may be strengthened;

That the Strategic Plan indicates that cooperation activities in the areas of action must, to the extent possible, include in their formulation, implementation, and evaluation the following: (a) civil society participation; (b) environmental considerations; (c) human resource development; and (d) gender equality and equity;

That the technical secretariats of ministerial meetings and meetings of the inter-American committees provide support to member states in the preparation of projects to be funded with FEMCIDI resources and carry out activities to coordinate and execute said projects, as requested;

That the IACD is implementing a mechanism for evaluating cooperation activities funded by FEMCIDI, and has successfully concluded the third evaluation cycle;

That in addition to the evaluation conducted once a project is concluded, it is very important that projects have an adequate follow-up during the course of their execution;

That the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) has not yet concluded its consideration of the document "Criteria for Presentation, Selection, and Evaluation of Projects Financed by FEMCIDI" (CEPCIDI/SCSD/doc.252/04 rev. 10); and

That, moreover, a process of reflection and consultation is taking place within CEPCIDI on the present structure of partnership for development, exploring numerous opportunities, with a view to strengthening it,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate that technical cooperation for integral development programs, projects, activities, and initiatives generated by the member states must respond to the mandates of the General Assembly, in particular mandates of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009, the Summits of the Americas, ministerial meetings, and/or meetings of the inter-American committees, and contribute especially to the elimination of extreme poverty, and that priority must be given to those of a multinational character, while continuing to recognize the importance of national projects to member states.

2. To recommend to member states that, to the extent possible, the cooperation activities they present in the areas of action of the Strategic Plan include, as elements in their formulation, implementation, and evaluation, the following: (a) civil society participation; (b) environmental considerations; (c) human resource development; and (d) gender equality and equity; and to instruct the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), when it considers cooperation projects, prepares the preliminary programming proposal for the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI), and evaluates technical cooperation activities, to verify whether the projects have included those elements, when appropriate.

3. To recommend once again to the ministerial meetings and inter-American committees that they consider the formulation of projects that implement the mandates and political decisions referred to in the preceding operative paragraph, for timely presentation by a member state for financing from a variety of sources, including FEMCIDI.

4. To urge all member states to contribute to FEMCIDI and, to the extent possible, increase their contributions to finance partnership-for-development activities.

5. To request the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to conclude its consideration of the document "Criteria for Presentation, Selection, and Evaluation of Projects Financed by FEMCIDI" (CEPCIDI/SCSD/doc.252/04 rev. 10), by January 31, 2008.

6. To instruct CEPCIDI to continue, and if possible to expedite, the process of reflection and consultation on the current structure of partnership for development, and to include in this process a comprehensive review of the norms governing the matter in the OAS, in light of the cooperation needs of the states and the diverse capacities of each, and taking into account the structural needs within the General Secretariat.

7. To further instruct CEPCIDI, in the framework of the aforementioned consultation and review process, to initiate a dialogue on the possibility of implementing cooperation mechanisms and modalities that make the most efficient use of the capacities of the OAS as a multilateral organization and of the capacities of all the member states, through cooperation among states at different levels of development in projects of particular benefit to the relatively less developed countries.

8. To these ends, to request CEPCIDI to convene, by March 30, 2008, a special technical meeting at which national authorities and experts in cooperation will participate to consider the matter.

9. To reiterate its mandate to the IACD that it make special efforts to obtain additional financial and non-financial resources; and, in that connection, to request that the Agency, within its capabilities, issue guidelines and define strategies for raising additional funds to finance partnership-for-development activities. In this connection, to instruct the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to present, by September 30, 2007, a proposed strategy for raising external funds and, in coordination with the Management Board, to arrange for its implementation.

10. To instruct the IACD to continue to foster increased collaboration and synergy among all areas of the General Secretariat that carry out cooperation activities financed with FEMCIDI resources or with resources from other sources, in particular activities whose content is linked to the Strategic Plan, and to report to CEPCIDI on a regular basis in that regard.

11. To note the results of the third FEMCIDI project evaluation cycle conducted by the IACD (AICD/JD/doc.106/07).

12. To entrust the partnership-for-development actors with using the findings of that evaluation of the projects and programs to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the positive results of partnership-for-development activities and to support the mobilization of other resources.

13. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide coordinated support to member states in the formulation, execution, and follow-up of cooperation activities.

14. To further instruct the General Secretariat to consolidate, update, and distribute to member states, at least on a quarterly basis, information related to all cooperation projects that are proposed, evaluated, and carried out in the framework of the OAS, in order to have pertinent information for the reflection and consultation process mentioned in operative paragraph 6, and for decision-making.

15. To instruct SEDI to work with the member states to achieve optimum technical quality in the projects.

16. In this regard, to instruct SEDI to organize as necessary, prior to the start of the 2008 FEMCIDI programming cycle, subregional coordination meetings, in order to support member states in the development and design of projects, preferably with a subregional focus, that will lead, *inter alia*, to improvements in the technical quality of projects, the sharing of successful experiences, and best practices that can be more broadly applied.

AG/RES. 2305 (XXXVII-O/07)

STRENGTHENING SUBSTANTIVE POLICY DIALOGUE IN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 164 (X-O/05), “Strengthening Substantive Policy Dialogue in the Framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development”; CIDI/RES. 179 (XI-O/06), “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development”; and CIDI/RES. 194 (XII-O/07), “Strengthening Substantive Policy Dialogue in the Framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development”; and

Resolutions AG/RES. 2079 (XXXV-O/05), “Strengthening Substantive Policy Dialogue in the Framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development,” and AG/RES. 2203 (XXXVI-O/06), “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development”;

CONSIDERING:

That, in the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government recognized the urgent need for the Organization of American States (OAS) to strengthen mechanisms for combating poverty, such as the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI);

That the Permanent Council and CIDI are principal organs of OAS, on an equal footing and at the same juridical and political level, and directly responsible to the General Assembly;

That each of the two Councils has the functions assigned to it in the OAS Charter and in other inter-American instruments, as well as those conferred on it by the General Assembly and the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

That the purpose of CIDI is to promote partnership for development among the American states with a view to achieving their integral development, and, in particular, contributing to the elimination of extreme poverty, the principal scourge that the Hemisphere faces;

That the OAS Charter establishes that CIDI shall hold at least one meeting each year at the ministerial or equivalent level and shall have the right to convene meetings at the same level for the specialized or sectoral topics it considers relevant, within its sphere of competence;

That the inter-American ministerial meetings held in the different sectoral areas have been very successful and have given rise to productive substantive dialogue among their respective authorities;

That resolutions AG/RES. 1981 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2077 (XXXV-O/05), “Strengthening Mechanisms for Policy Dialogue for Integral Development,” and AG/RES. 2203 (XXXVI-O/06), “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development,” instructed CIDI to continue considering mechanisms and methods for furthering the process of strengthening policy dialogue and partnership for development, particularly as regards following up on the Summits of the Americas process and the structure, representation, nature, and purpose of CIDI’s regular and special meetings and their relationship with the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI);

That, pursuant to its Statutes, CIDI comprises one principal representative, of ministerial or equivalent rank, for each member state, who is specially appointed by the respective government; and

That CIDI serves as a catalyst for the mobilization of human, technical, and financial resources and, within the OAS, coordinates implementation of the mandates that emerge from the Summits of the Americas process, in its area of competence, in accordance with the provisions of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the important mandates of CIDI and those emanating from the sectoral meetings of ministers and high-level authorities in the economic, social, educational, cultural, labor, tourism, sustainable development, scientific, and technological areas make it necessary and fundamental for the member states at CIDI meetings to engage in substantive policy dialogue on the topic to be addressed and to achieve progress in the formulation of policies, the definition of priorities, and the development of specific actions aimed at promoting integral development,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) that it should evaluate the usefulness of holding more than one meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) each year, to enable procedural matters, particularly those that must be addressed prior to a General Assembly, to be dealt with separately from those issues requiring substantive dialogue.

2. To reiterate to CEPCIDI that it should select, at least six months in advance, the specific topic that CIDI will consider during its next meeting, so that the member states may be properly informed about the topic that they will address and so that CEPCIDI and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) may carry out the necessary preparatory work to facilitate the substantive policy dialogue that is sought.

3. To invite the member states of the OAS to appoint representatives at the ministerial or equivalent level or high authorities associated with the topic under consideration, to attend the CIDI meetings, so that these meetings may give rise, at the policy level entrusted to CIDI in the OAS

Charter, to the mandates, guidelines, and recommendations that should be implemented, and to follow up on the work of its subsidiary organs and of the General Secretariat.

4. To request CEPCIDI to ensure, pursuant to section III of the Rules of Procedure of CIDI and in coordination with the member states of the Organization and the pertinent authorities of the General Secretariat, that steps are taken to promote substantive policy dialogue at the ministerial or equivalent level or with high authorities associated with the topic under consideration, aimed at formulating policies, defining priorities, and carrying out activities.

5. To encourage the member states, with support from the OAS General Secretariat, to promote and foster, among their governments, the participation of representatives at the ministerial or equivalent level or of high authorities associated with the topic to be considered at CIDI meetings.

6. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2306 (XXXVII-O/07)

SUPPORT FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS
AND SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HAITI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING that some of the essential purposes stated in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) are to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention; to promote, by cooperative action, the economic, social, and cultural development of the member states; and to eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the Hemisphere; and reaffirming its strong attachment to the sovereignty, independence, well-being, and prosperity of the people of Haiti;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes that “[d]emocracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas”; that “[d]emocracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing”; and that “[p]overty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy”;

EMPHASIZING the need to support the Government and people of Haiti in accordance with the Declaration on Security in the Americas, which recognizes that social justice and human development are necessary for the stability of each state in the Hemisphere; that fostering friendly relations and inter-American cooperation for integral development strengthens the security of the states of the Hemisphere, that the security of states is also affected, in different ways, by the extreme poverty and social exclusion of broad sectors of the population, which also affect stability and democracy; and that extreme poverty erodes social cohesion and undermines the security of states;

RECALLING its resolutions, in particular resolution AG/RES. 2215 (XXXVI-O/06), and those of the Permanent Council on the situation in Haiti, as well as the report of March 12, 2007, on developments in the situation in Haiti (CP/doc.4186/07), presented by the Secretary General to the Permanent Council;

WELCOMING the peaceful holding of the most recent free and democratic presidential, legislative, and local elections, which brought about renewal of the political leadership in Haiti;

WELCOMING ALSO the inclusive composition of the Government of Haiti and the progress achieved in the areas of political, economic, and social development in Haiti, and encouraging the efforts by the authorities and the people of Haiti, to continue, through national dialogue, promoting peace, stability, security, socioeconomic development, job creation, better health conditions, social progress, and stronger institutions;

ACKNOWLEDGING the positive evolution of the security environment and the encouraging results of efforts aimed at overall recovery in Haiti, and recognizing the need to support the Government of Haiti until the social and institutional stabilization of the country has been achieved;

RECOGNIZING the importance attached by the Government of Haiti to trade and investment as tools for creating jobs and furthering socioeconomic development;

NOTING WITH INTEREST the encouraging results achieved thanks to the efforts of the Haitian National Police with the support of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), in the areas of security, maintenance of public order, and protection of the human and constitutional rights of all Haitians;

COMMENDING the work carried out by the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti, and commending also the establishment in the General Secretariat of the Task Force on Haiti in order to coordinate the work of the OAS in that country as well as cooperation between the OAS and other inter-American and international institutions; and welcoming the role played by the OAS in the recent elections, in particular the establishment, by means of national identity cards, of a solid foundation for modernizing the civil registry;

RECOGNIZING the role played by the institutions of the inter-American system in supporting the Government of Haiti in their respective areas of specialization;

UNDERSCORING the positive outcomes of the International Conferences for the Economic and Social Development of Haiti, held in Port-au-Prince on July 25, 2006, and in Madrid on November 29, 2006, and greatly appreciating the international bilateral aid and horizontal cooperation granted to the Government and people of Haiti, aimed particularly at meeting the immediate needs of the least privileged segments of the population, providing basic social services and generating employment;

NOTING the High-Level International Meeting on Haiti, held in Brasilia, Brazil, on May 23, 2006, and the Meeting of Latin American Countries in MINUSTAH on Haiti–Mechanism 2 and 9, held in Lima, Peru, on February 12, 2007; and urging the sustained engagement of the international community and international financial institutions in providing technical and financial support for the development of Haiti;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Declaration of Santo Domingo, adopted in the framework of the Regional Summit on Drugs, Security and Cooperation, on March 16, 2007, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic;

NOTING the work of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) at its forty-first regular session in Washington, D.C., from May 2 to 4, 2007, when it considered the strengthening of international support to Haiti to combat the drug problem;

UNDERSCORING the positive impact that forgiveness of Haiti's external public debt by the international financial community would have on the people and Government of that country, so that the financial resources could be used to promote social and economic development;

ENCOURAGING the search for solutions to address weaknesses in the judicial and penitentiary systems in Haiti, including prolonged pre-trial detentions, with a view to strengthening the rule of law, respect for human rights, and due process; and

REAFFIRMING the hemispheric commitment to a just and equitable society in Haiti based on the principles of justice and social inclusion,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the people of Haiti on the recent holding of peaceful elections, as well as the Haitian Government on the positive evolution of the situation in Haiti.
2. To reaffirm the support of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) for the newly elected officials in the exercise of democratic, inclusive, representative, participatory, and effective governance, with the understanding that the Government and people of Haiti are, ultimately, the principal players in efforts to develop their country.
3. To reiterate its support for the efforts of the Government of Haiti in its pursuit of an inclusive and democratic government which contributes to strengthening security in Haiti, the elimination of poverty, and the socioeconomic recovery of the Haitian people, in a peaceful and stable political, social, and economic environment.
4. To underscore the utmost importance of the vision of inclusion and dialogue undertaken by the Government of Haiti; and to encourage the strengthening of a peaceful and secure environment conducive to a steady process of sustainable development.
5. To urge the OAS member states and the rest of the international community to deepen as a matter of priority their commitment to the people of Haiti, based on the principles of solidarity and international cooperation for development, with a view to contributing decisively to solving the immediate needs of the Haitian population, reducing poverty, especially extreme poverty, carrying out national reconstruction programs and projects, fostering economic and social development, and consolidating democratic institutions.
6. To reaffirm its support for increased capacity and professionalization of the Haitian National Police, including the vetting and certification of new and existing officers, under the leadership of the Haitian authorities, in close collaboration with the OAS and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and with the support of the international community.
7. To continue to promote the process of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, as well as the process of creating and strengthening community security mechanisms and eradicating violence and the criminal activities of gangs, as an essential component for promoting peace and reconciliation in Haiti.
8. To recognize the contributions of the Task Force on Haiti in support of improving the political, democratic, and socioeconomic situation, and in this regard, the streamlining of operations and activities in the OAS Office in Haiti.

9. To acknowledge the significant contribution of MINUSTAH, in which several OAS member states are participating, to the restoration of improved security conditions, as part of the efforts to strengthen the political and institutional environment and improve the socioeconomic situation in Haiti.

10. To encourage the institutions of the inter-American system to continue their valuable assistance in their areas of competence.

11. To call upon the international community to assist Haitian authorities in their efforts against the proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons within the territory of Haiti.

12. To welcome the ratification by the Haitian Parliament of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to encourage the Haitian Government to harmonize domestic legislation accordingly.

13. To encourage the member states to cooperate with the Government of Haiti by providing training and technical assistance related to the interdiction of drug-trafficking activities; and to encourage the Government of Haiti to implement narcotics demand-reduction policies and programs, in line with hemispheric guidelines in this matter adopted by the OAS on the basis of work done by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

14. To request the General Secretariat through the Task Force on Haiti:

- a. To continue its work in support of the establishment of the Permanent Electoral Council;
- b. To continue supporting the Haitian authorities, in particular the Ministry of Justice, in the process of modernizing the civil registry;
- c. To conduct a survey of those entities currently engaged in strengthening the Haitian judicial system, including the Haitian authorities and international organizations, to determine the most appropriate forms of support the organs of the OAS, including the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) and the Inter-American Juridical Committee, can provide to existing efforts to fight impunity, uphold the rule of law, and promote further trust in Haitian society;
- d. To strengthen its activities in the other areas in which it is already involved, such as the promotion of tourism and trade; and to support the Government of Haiti in holding by the end of 2007 a trade and investment forum with a view to strengthening economic growth, stimulating the creation of employment and wealth, and consolidating the Haitian institutions working in those areas;

- e. To play an increased role in resource mobilization for the benefit of Haiti and to provide strong support to the Government of Haiti so that it may strengthen its external aid management and coordination capacity;
- f. To support the Government of Haiti in the formulation of development policies, in coordination with the United Nations, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and other international institutions and agencies; and
- g. To provide, through CICAD and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, cooperation aimed at achieving a fully operational drug observatory in Haiti, in the form of technical and scientific training in the exchange of information among professionals in this field, with a view to obtaining accurate and reliable information on the real situation in the country in this area.

15. To request the international financial institutions and Haiti's partners to extend, as a matter of urgency and consistent with the development priorities of the Government of Haiti, their full financial support for programs to create jobs, promote education, eradicate illiteracy, regenerate the environment, achieve appropriate standards for food security, expand available health care, restore and increase infrastructure, and promote investment.

16. To stress the need to accelerate the disbursement of those funds pledged on the occasion of the International Conferences for the Economic and Social Development of Haiti that have not yet been placed at the disposal of the Haitian government to execute labor-intensive projects, expand basic social services, and promote political stability and socioeconomic development.

17. To urge the international community, the international financial institutions, and Haiti's partners to coordinate, *inter alia*, through international donors' conferences, significant technical and financial support for the Government of Haiti, with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts aimed at building synergies and improving efficiency in support of strengthening democracy and socioeconomic development.

18. To confer on the OAS Country Office in Haiti the responsibilities of the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti and of any other OAS representation, taking into account the positive evolution of the situation in Haiti and the need to focus increasingly on contributing to the social and economic development of the people of Haiti and the strengthening of democratic institutions in Haiti.

19. To urge member states and the international community to coordinate their efforts in providing aid to the Government of Haiti, and in this regard establish a database of donor assistance to Haiti.

20. To request the General Secretariat to submit a semiannual report to the Permanent Council on developments in the situation in Haiti and on the activities of the Task Force on Haiti.

21. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

AG/RES. 2307 (XXXVII-O/07)

POVERTY, EQUITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION:
FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECLARATION OF MARGARITA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 113 (VII-O/02), “Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion”; CIDI/RES. 130 (VIII-O/03), “High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion”; CIDI/RES. 145 (IX-O/04), “Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion”; CIDI/RES. 165 (X-O/05), “Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion: Follow-up to the Declaration of Margarita”; CIDI/RES. 179 (XI-O/06), “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development”; and CIDI/RES. 195 (XII-O/07), “Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion: Follow-up to the Declaration of Margarita”; and

Resolutions AG/RES. 1854 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1962 (XXXIII-O/03), and AG/RES. 1983 (XXXIV-O/04), “Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion”; AG/RES. 2081 (XXXV-O/05), “Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion: Follow-up to the Declaration of Margarita”; and AG/RES. 2203 (XXXVI-O/06), “Reiteration and Renewal of Commitments and Mandates in the Framework of Inter-American Cooperation for Integral Development”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion, which took place on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, from October 8 to 10, 2003, adopted the Declaration of Margarita (RANPEIS/DEC. 1/03); and

CONSIDERING:

That Article 2.g of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is to eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the Hemisphere;

That the Declaration of Quebec City, adopted at the Third Summit of the Americas, states that “[w]e shall spare no effort to free our fellow citizens from the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty”;

That the Declaration of Nuevo León, adopted at the Special Summit of the Americas, recognizes that overcoming poverty, hunger, and social inequality are major challenges facing many countries of the Hemisphere in the 21st century;

That in the same Declaration the Heads of State and Government urged the OAS “to carefully consider the recommendations approved at the High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion, held on Isla de Margarita, Venezuela to strengthen the hemispheric social agenda”;

That in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their “commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion in order to raise the standard of living of our peoples and strengthen democratic governance in the Americas”;

That the General Assembly reaffirmed, in the preambular section of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, that “the fight against poverty, and especially the elimination of extreme poverty, is essential to the promotion and consolidation of democracy and constitutes a common and shared responsibility of the American states”;

That, in resolution AG/RES. 1983 (XXXIV-O/04), “Poverty, Equity and Social Inclusion,” the General Assembly endorsed the Declaration of Margarita and took note of the proposal for a follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion (CEPCIDI/doc.594/03), as well as of the methodology for its implementation (CEPCIDI/doc.611/04 corr. 1);

That in the Declaration of Margarita, the high-level authorities of the OAS member states responsible for social development policies and programs expressed their commitment to ensuring that the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, as the hemispheric policy forum for dialogue on combating poverty, contributes to the follow-up and evaluation of the eight development goals established in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

That the United Nations, through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as well as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and other specialized agencies of the inter-American system, have given ample consideration to the goals established in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

That, to a large extent, the follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion will take place in the context of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development; and that the Declaration of Margarita specifically proposes that the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) consider the need to deepen the commitments undertaken in the Charter of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and other international instruments on social matters in relation to the advancement and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights, and explore the possibility of having an instrument and mechanisms that respond to this aim;

That resolution AG/RES. 1854 (XXXII-O/02) instructed the Permanent Council and CIDI, in light of the results of the Isla Margarita meeting, to define jointly new actions to strengthen existing mechanisms for cooperation to support the OAS member states in combating poverty;

That the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI was convened by resolutions CIDI/RES. 160 (IX-O/04) and CIDI/RES. 172 (X-O/05); and

That the Government of Chile has offered to host that ministerial meeting, to be held in the first half of 2008 (CEPCIDI/INF.7/07),

RESOLVES:

1. To entrust the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) with carefully considering the recommendations approved during the High-Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion.

2. To entrust the Permanent Council and CIDI with considering, on the basis of the proposal made in said meeting, mechanisms and instruments that make it possible to deepen the commitments undertaken in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and other international instruments on social matters, in relation to the advancement and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights.

3. To convene for the second half of 2007 or the first half of 2008, in light of the commitment adopted in the Declaration of Margarita, a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to contribute “to following up on, evaluating, and supervising the Eight Development Objectives established in the Millennium Declaration for the year 2015.”

4. To entrust the member states with reporting, at that joint meeting, on progress in achieving their respective national goals as they pertain to the development goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

5. To invite experts in this area to participate in that joint meeting, particularly experts from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and from other pertinent agencies of the inter-American system, so that they may report on the progress made toward achieving the development goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration at the hemispheric level.

6. To entrust the General Secretariat with lending its support, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, for holding that joint meeting.

7. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2308 (XXXVII-O/07)

ERADICATING ILLITERACY AND FIGHTING DISEASES
THAT AFFECT INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 180 (XI-O/06) and CIDI/RES. 196 (XII-O/07), “Eradicating Illiteracy and Fighting Diseases That Affect Integral Development”; and

Resolution AG/RES. 2204 (XXXVI-O/06), “Eradicating Illiteracy and Fighting Diseases That Affect Integral Development,”

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that achieving integral development entails the consolidation in the Americas of basic and essential goals upon which such development can be built, such as increasing the literacy of our populations and alleviating the diseases that undermine this objective;

CONSIDERING that the Fourth Summit of the Americas set out, in paragraph 13 of the Declaration of Mar del Plata, the commitment of the Hemisphere’s leaders to developing comprehensive policies to institutionalize the fight against poverty, consolidating more democratic societies, with opportunities for all, and promoting greater access to education, health care, labor markets, and credit;

RECALLING that, similarly, Article 34.h of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) speaks of the rapid eradication of illiteracy and the expansion of educational opportunities for all, as one of the basic goals to be pursued in the process of attaining integral development;

RECALLING ALSO that achieving universal primary education and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases were topics expressly included in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals derived therefrom;

BEARING IN MIND:

That illiteracy and functional illiteracy are the reason that a large number of people are deprived of the possibility of participating fully in processes aimed at achieving integral development and of receiving its benefits;

That there are major shortcomings and precarious conditions in the health area and in health care provision in the Americas, particularly as regards chronic, emerging, and re-emerging diseases, which in some cases seriously affect the ability of people to participate in the aforesaid processes;

That there is a link between higher levels of literacy in the population and the capacity to have ready access to and benefit from the contents of publicly disseminated materials, programs, or campaigns—of an informative, preventive, or palliative nature—aimed at reducing health care inequities and improving health conditions in the countries of the Hemisphere;

That, at the Special Summit of the Americas and the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government expressed their concern about chronic, emerging, and re-emerging diseases, and pledged to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information in the fight against these diseases, as well as to develop promotion, prevention, control, and treatment programs, with a view to implementing integral public health actions;

That the Declaration of Scarborough and Commitments to Action, adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, recognizes the need to work on the high illiteracy rates in the countries of the region, proposes that the design of a regional literacy program be considered, and entrusts the OAS with studying this possibility;

That the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the America supports the recommendations contained in the Declaration of Scarborough and Commitments to Action, adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education, and promotes literacy to ensure a democratic citizenry, foster decent work, fight poverty, and achieve greater social inclusion;

That the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) calls for the study of a literacy program within the framework of the OAS before 2008, taking into account successful experiences in the field, in order to advance towards the eradication of illiteracy; and

That the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009 includes, among the priority actions in the area of education, “supporting the efforts of member states to reduce high levels of illiteracy so as to ensure a democratic citizenry, facilitate decent work, fight against poverty, and achieve greater social inclusion for the entire population”;

CONVINCED that full literacy is a fundamental element in achieving more just and inclusive societies, in consolidating democracy in the Americas, and in transmitting such basic democratic values as respect for institutions and individual freedoms, tolerance, and human rights;

CONCERNED about the obstacles to integral development that arise from diseases, principally from those that have a social impact or may be related to poverty or lack of education; and

UNDERSCORING its conviction that the difficulties and challenges posed by illiteracy, poor-quality education, and health problems in the Americas can be overcome only through an approach based on solidarity that involves governments and civil society as a whole, taking into account opportunities to incorporate modules on health into formal education curriculums,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the determination of the member states, as reiterated in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas and embodied in resolution AG/RES. 2204

(XXXVI-O/06), adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) at its thirty-sixth regular session, to take measures and pursue specific programs to achieve full literacy of the Hemisphere's populations and improve the quality of education at all levels, as well as to overcome diseases that represent obstacles to integral development.

2. To continue, as decided, the process of studying a program to move toward the elimination of illiteracy in the Hemisphere, taking into account successful experiences in the field; and, in that regard, to acknowledge the efforts undertaken in the framework of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) on the proposed "Literacy Initiative" and extend the period for completing this study to December 2007.

3. To recommend that, in that process, consideration be given to best practices in member states; and, to that end, to instruct the General Secretariat to conduct, through its relevant technical areas, a study of such practices in the member states, in order to share the results obtained.

4. To request the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and pursuant to operative paragraphs 2 and 3 above, to resolutely support and collaborate with the member states in their efforts related to this matter.

5. To reiterate to the national authorities in the area of education the recommendation that they explore the possibility of setting a tentative date for the eradication of illiteracy in the Americas, bearing in mind the individual characteristics of each member state, in order to attain that goal as soon as possible.

6. To support the member states, through the technical areas of the General Secretariat with specific responsibility in the matter, in their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and improve the quality of education, in coordination, where appropriate, with other regional or international organizations with initiatives in the area, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

7. To take note of the valuable information contained in the Annual Report (2006) of the Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), "Closing the Gaps in Health in Least Protected Populations," regarding inequities and inequalities in health and the policies and programs addressing them.

8. To strengthen formal dialogue with PAHO through the strategic partnership between the two organizations, in order to coordinate respective efforts, in the area of competence of each, with regard to health problems in the Americas and their social impact.

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to organize, in the second half of 2007, a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), to which PAHO and other relevant agencies would be invited, in order to put forward different perspectives and points of view regarding the links between poverty and the health status of communities in the Hemisphere, as well as possible and existing ways of improving those conditions.

10. To call upon ministers and highest-level authorities in the areas of education and health in the Hemisphere to consider the subject of this resolution.

11. To request the General Secretariat, to present an annual report, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on the implementation of this resolution.

12. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the progress made in implementing this resolution.

AG/RES. 2309 (XXXVII-O/07)

REPORT OF THE THIRD INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF CULTURE AND HIGHEST APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 184 (XI-O/06), "Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI," and CIDI/RES. 197 (XII-O/07), "Report of the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities"; and

Resolutions AG/RES. 2077 (XXXV-O/05), "Strengthening Mechanisms for Policy Dialogue for Integral Development," and AG/RES. 2208 (XXXVI-O/06), "Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI";

CONSIDERING:

That the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities was held in Montreal, Canada, from November 13 to 15, 2006, with technical support from the General Secretariat;

That the topics inspired by priorities highlighted by the Heads of State and Government at the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) and considered at the Meeting were: (a) the preservation and presentation of cultural heritage; (b) culture and the enhancement of the dignity and identity of our people; (c) culture and the creation of decent jobs and the overcoming of poverty; and (d) culture and the role of indigenous peoples;

That after a productive dialogue the Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities adopted the Montreal Final Statement (CIDI/REMIC-III/doc.12/06) and resolution CIDI-REMIC-III/RES. 1/06, "Approval of the List of Priority Activities in Culture (2007-2008) to Be Carried out in the Framework of the OAS Ministerial Process of Culture"; and that the Inter-American Committee on Culture, with support from the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), has already begun to implement these priority activities; and

The Final Report of the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities (REMIC-III/doc.13/07); and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture has been convened for August 28 and 29, 2007,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Government of Canada and the Province of Quebec for the successful hosting of the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI; and to take note with satisfaction of the Montreal Final Statement, adopted at that meeting, and endorse the List of Priority Activities for 2007-2008, which form part of this resolution.

2. To entrust the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) and the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), with the task of collaborating with authorities in the culture sector in implementing the Montreal Final Statement and the List of Priority Activities for 2007-2008.

3. To stress the importance of continuing hemispheric dialogue among ministers and high-level authorities on issues related to culture within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through SEDI, to support the process of preparation for and follow-up of meetings in the culture sector, including the next meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture, to be held in Washington, D.C., in August 2007.

5. To urge the General Secretariat and particularly SEDI to work closely with the other organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States and the inter-American system and other international organizations and members of civil society, with a view to advancing dialogue on practical measures to promote social inclusion and economic development through culture and cultural expression.

6. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

MONTREAL FINAL STATEMENT

(Adopted at the closing session, held on November 15, 2006)

The Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities within the Framework of CIDI of the Organization of American States (OAS) was held in Montreal, Canada, from November 13 to 15, 2006. The Honorable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women, chaired the meeting. The ministers and highest authorities responsible for culture of OAS member states as well as representatives of civil society and international organizations participated in discussions. Permanent observers and other representatives of civil society and international organizations also attended.

Their dialogue on cultural policy focused on four themes inspired by priorities highlighted by the Heads of State and Government at the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005): the preservation and presentation of cultural heritage; culture and the enhancement of the dignity and identity of our people; culture and the creation of decent jobs and the overcoming of poverty; and culture and the role of indigenous peoples. Throughout the sessions, a crosscutting issue identified as a priority by the OAS General Assembly at its 36th regular session was also addressed, i.e. support for “inter-American policies and programs that foster the development of culture in the region and consider the impact that ICTs can have on its multiple dimensions,” and for “the efforts to protect and promote cultural diversity, as well as cultural identities, within the knowledge-based society” (Declaration of Santo Domingo, 2006).

I. PRESERVATION AND PRESENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The United States facilitated the first thematic session with support from the Dominican Republic and the Institute of Female Entrepreneurs, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) from Haiti. This session allowed for an examination of multifaceted strategies for the preservation and presentation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, with particular emphasis on innovative intersectoral and international partnerships. It provided an opportunity to discuss how interwoven cultural preservation efforts are providing broader access to and nurturing culture. The Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities examined the challenges facing cultural institutions with regard to disaster preparation and recovery, and exchanged information on successful initiatives and partnerships undertaken to address these. They shared best practices in the digital preservation of cultural heritage and focused on documentation and presentation of intangible cultural heritage. Descriptions were given of successful partnerships to preserve and present cultural heritage.

II. CULTURE AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE DIGNITY AND IDENTITY OF OUR PEOPLE

Jamaica led the second thematic session, to which Canada and Ecuador brought complementary perspectives. This session allowed for an examination of multisectoral strategies based on actions in critical areas related to identity formation and poverty reduction. The Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities examined various approaches and practices that could

be considered to promote the positive identity and dignity of all cultures, taking into account, where appropriate, the need to protect vulnerable cultural groups. Discussions focused on ways to attain this goal by fostering the development of partnerships between the education and culture sectors, facilitating the development and promotion of cultural industries, and establishing means to assess achievements and outcomes. The Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities shared concrete experiences in developing appreciation and respect for the arts, culture, and languages of the Hemisphere from an early age, including infusing them into educational programs.

III. CULTURE AND THE CREATION OF DECENT JOBS AND THE OVERCOMING OF POVERTY

The third session was facilitated by Brazil, with support from Colombia and from the *Instituto Axé* of Salvador, Bahia. This topic was approached through considerations on how the OAS could promote the exchange of cultural data, highlight the crosscutting nature of cultural policies, and reflect the role of culture in the alleviation of poverty. The dialogue highlighted the challenges facing the development of standardized cultural indicators, which would facilitate assessment of the scale of industrialized as well as informal and non-industrialized cultural economies and their impact on development. The Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities discussed concrete programs developed with the help of clear cultural indicators and satellite accounts, as well as social projects by NGOs, which contribute to overcoming social exclusion. In addition, it was suggested that the OAS help facilitate the development of common measurements allowing a more accurate evaluation of cultural policies in the Hemisphere.

IV. CULTURE AND THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The fourth thematic session was facilitated by Guatemala, with contributions from Mexico and the Assembly of First Nations of Canada. It began with an analysis of the member states' cultural policies and their impact on the development of the cultures of indigenous peoples. The influence of indigenous peoples on the formulation of cultural policies was also discussed, as was the inclusion of their values in educational curricula. The Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities examined measures designed to preserve and to give recognition to the knowledge of indigenous peoples, and considered the role of indigenous cultural heritage in the development of national cultures. The discussions focused on experiences in indigenous participation and cultural industries, and recognized the value and importance of languages, cosmovision, spirituality, multilingualism, intercultural dialogue, the arts, and technologies for the integral development of indigenous peoples and society as a whole.

In summary, the Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities took this opportunity to underline the significant contribution of the cultural sector in efforts to combat poverty and to improve the dignity and quality of life of the population of the Americas. Their discussions stressed the importance of preserving and presenting the diverse cultural expressions of our peoples as a substantial factor in ensuring social cohesion and sustainable economic development in the Americas in an age of globalization.

The Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities expressed their commitment to continued progress and concrete results in these priority areas by agreeing upon a pragmatic List of Priority Activities for 2007-2008 (attached).

The Inter-American Committee on Culture will monitor the fulfillment of these commitments, with support from the OAS Technical Secretariat, and will report on achievements at the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities, to be held in 2008.

Attachment: List of Priority Activities for 2007-2008

LIST OF PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR 2007-2008

The ministers and other high-level government authorities responsible for cultural policy and for supporting cultural activities in the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered in Montreal (Quebec) Canada, from November 13 to 15, 2006, adopted the following List of Priority Activities for 2007-2008:

THEME I – Preservation and presentation of cultural heritage. Supporting member states in their efforts to preserve, protect, manage, and promote cultural heritage through cooperation and capacity-building to combat the pillaging, illicit trafficking, destruction, and unauthorized possession of cultural objects; promoting educational public-awareness campaigns; fostering international partnerships among cultural heritage sites and agencies; and documenting and promoting research on cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible

Regional workshops: Experiences in defending cultural heritage

Subregional workshops to promote cooperation and the exchange of information and experiences in the protection of cultural heritage against looting. Topics to include: law enforcement, regional cooperation mechanisms, education, and technical capacity-building. The first workshop, for the Central American region, will be held in Mexico during the first quarter of 2007.

Proposal presented by the United States and supported by the OAS Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC).

Funding from the United States and the OAS.

Linking heritage and communities across borders: Sister parks for the Americas

Conference to develop partnerships and collaboration among world-class heritage sites to encourage the development of new approaches to sustainability, including the conservation of resources; community engagement through education and outreach to support local culture, heritage and tradition; and a focus on authenticity balanced with economic opportunity for residents.

Proposal presented by the United States and supported by the CIC.

Funding to be identified.

Knowledge-sharing workshop on community participation in the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage

A week-long workshop to share the experience of Mexico, through its Integral Community Conservation and Development Projects, in working with communities in the recognition, preservation, and safeguarding of their heritage.

Proposal presented by Mexico and supported by the CIC.

Funding to be identified.

Other activities under “Preservation and presentation of cultural heritage”

THEME II – Culture and the enhancement of the dignity and identity of our people. Supporting member states in their efforts to strengthen the cultural content of their educational programs, particularly those directed at young people, to assist in developing cultural identity; promoting intercultural dialogue, creativity, and artistic expression; and enhancing awareness and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity

International seminar on cultural diversity: Practices and perspectives

International seminar on cultural diversity, focusing on the exchange of successful and replicable public programs for the promotion and protection of cultural diversity, with case studies and practical experiences. The seminar will take place in Brasilia, Brazil, during the first half of 2007.

Proposal presented by Brazil in response to a mandate from the Plan of Action of Mexico, and supported by the CIC.

Funding from Brazil, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the OAS

Regional meeting: Exploring best or desired practices in the integration of cultural identity and diversity in educational programs

A special meeting of representatives of the culture and education sectors. Details to be developed following guidelines from the third ministerial meeting, held in Montreal.

Proposal presented by Jamaica; work on this topic is encouraged by the CIC.

Funding to be identified.

Other activities under “Culture and the enhancement of the dignity and identity of our people”

THEME III – Culture and the creation of decent jobs and the overcoming of poverty. Supporting job creation in the cultural sector through regional forums that address the challenges and opportunities of artists, artisans, and cultural industries; horizontal-cooperation pilot projects aimed at developing management and commercial skills in the culture sector; and programs and incentives to ensure an environment in which creative expression and cultural industries may flourish

Knowledge-sharing workshop on the recovery and promotion of artisanal, indigenous, and traditional production

A one-week workshop to share the experiences of Honduras in the recovery and promotion of artisanal, indigenous, and traditional production. This activity is scheduled for December 2006 and is part of the cooperative efforts by OAS member states to share knowledge through the presentation and selection of programs reported in the Portfolio of Promising Programs in Culture.

Proposal endorsed by the CIC at its first meeting.

Funding from Honduras, and the OAS.

Culture and its contribution to the economy and development

Pursuant to mandates from the Plan of Action of Mexico, talks have been held with international and non-profit organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Culture and Development Foundation, to explore new mechanisms for collaboration. Possible joint activities are being considered and will be presented in due course.

Other activities under “Culture and the creation of decent jobs and the overcoming of poverty”

THEME IV – Culture and the role of indigenous peoples. Fostering respect for cultural diversity, as well as promoting and preserving ethnic and linguistic heritage and traditions

To be decided

CROSSCUTTING THEMES

Cultural information: Supporting member states in their efforts to build capacity to measure the social and economic impact of cultural activity, and to gather, analyze, and disseminate information on culture through the exchange of information and practices in cultural information systems, by supporting networks of cultural policymakers and of persons involved in the area of culture and by serving as a bridge with specialized organizations active in the field.

- Meeting to review the results of the cultural information systems workshops held under OAS auspices in Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico City and Chile in 2006, and to program possible further collaboration and activities. With the participation of the host countries of the three workshops and international organizations working on the topic that participated in the workshop.

Meeting hosted by Colombia. Funding for follow-up activities to be identified as appropriate.

Portfolio of Promising Programs in Culture

- Continue enhancing the Portfolio of Promising Programs in Culture so that it reflects some of the most successful programs carried out in OAS member states that have the potential of being shared and replicated through knowledge-sharing workshops in the framework of the OAS.

Others

AG/RES. 2310 (XXXVII-O/07)

INCREASING AND STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AND IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1) as it pertains to the activities of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2172 (XXXVI-O/06), "Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, adopted by the Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99) and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1707 (XXX-O/00), which establish that, "[i]n order to bear fruit, civil society participation must be oriented by a clear and yet flexible regulatory framework. Such flexibility is achieved by way of periodic review of participation in OAS activities. These Guidelines thus represent a further step toward enhancing civil society participation in OAS activities";

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, adopted by the Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03) and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), which requested "the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) to follow up on these strategies; to evaluate their implementation; and, if appropriate, to propose amendments to them or new mechanisms for increasing and strengthening participation by civil society organizations in OAS activities";

CONSIDERING that the Summits of the Americas process encourages full participation by civil society and that, in the Declaration of Nuevo León, the Heads of State and Government undertook to institutionalize meetings with civil society and with the academic and private sectors;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Declaration of Mar del Plata recognized the pivotal role the Organization of American States (OAS) plays in coordinating civil society participation in the Summits process;

UNDERSCORING the efforts being made by the host country of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, in coordination with the OAS General Secretariat through the Summits Secretariat, to encourage, promote, and facilitate civil society participation in the preparatory activities for the Fifth Summit of the Americas and at the Summit itself;

CONSIDERING that Article 6 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “[i]t is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development. This is a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy”;

NOTING the establishment of the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, by resolution CP/RES. 864 (1413/04), to support participation by civil society organizations in OAS activities, including the dialogue among heads of delegation of member states, the Secretary General, and civil society organization representatives, which has been included on the draft schedule for regular sessions of the General Assembly as a regular activity before the inaugural session, as indicated in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03);

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the recommendations and the dialogue stemming from the Special Meeting of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities on the Hemispheric Agenda: “Energy for Sustainable Development,” held on May 11, 2007, which included broad participation by civil society organizations of the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING the importance of participation by civil society organizations in strengthening democracy in all member states and the significant contribution they can make to the activities of the OAS and of the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that civil society participation in OAS activities should take place in a context of close collaboration between the political and institutional bodies of the Organization and in accordance with the provisions of resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities”; and

NOTING the presentation by the General Secretariat of the “Report on Civil Society Participation in International Organizations,” pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2172 (XXXVI-O/06),

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of the member states to continue strengthening and implementing effective mechanisms for civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas process and in the activities of the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as the willingness of the Organization to continue to implement concrete actions designed to achieve the effective participation of civil society in the Summits process and the OAS.

2. To instruct the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and the General Secretariat to continue, in coordination with all organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, to facilitate the implementation of the Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, adopted by the Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03) and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), "Increasing and Strengthening Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities."

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue to promote and facilitate civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas and in the activities developed by the OAS as a result of the Summits of the Americas process, as well as the efforts of member states to foster such participation.

4. To continue to actively support and promote the registration of civil society organizations and their participation in OAS activities, and in its organs, agencies, and entities.

5. To encourage all member states, permanent observers, and other donors, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and in other rules and regulations of the Organization, to consider contributing to the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, in order to sustain and promote the effective participation of civil society organizations in OAS activities in accordance with the goals set by the Heads of State and Government in the Summits of the Americas process, including in the dialogue among heads of delegation, the Secretary General, and representatives of civil society organizations.

6. To continue to urge member states to:

- a. Participate in the dialogue of heads of delegation with representatives of civil society organizations in the context of General Assembly sessions and in the Summits of the Americas process; and
- b. Continue their efforts, both domestically and multilaterally, to expand opportunities for participation by civil society organizations in OAS activities and in the Summits of the Americas process.

7. To encourage member states to continue reporting on existing procedures and regulations regarding consultations with civil society, to allow for an exchange of experiences and best practices among the member states.

8. To recognize the efforts of the host country of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly to work together with the General Secretariat and with civil society organizations to facilitate and organize their participation in the dialogue of heads of delegation, in accordance with resolution CP/RES. 840 (1361/03); and to encourage future hosts to continue to build on these traditions.

9. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to support member states that so request in their efforts to increase the institutional capacity of their governments to receive, absorb, and act on civil society input and advocacy, including, when possible, through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).
10. To instruct the General Secretariat to carry out the activities referred to in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.
11. To instruct the General Secretariat to report to the Permanent Council before the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2311 (XXXVII-O/07)

HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:
SECOND MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND FIRST MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 160 (IX-O/04), "Inter-American Committee on Social Development"; CIDI/RES. 165 (X-O/05), "Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion: Follow-up to the Declaration of Margarita"; CIDI/RES. 172 (X-O/05), "Report of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development"; and CIDI/RES. 198 (XII-O/07), "Hemispheric Cooperation for the Promotion of Social Development: Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development and First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI"; and

Resolutions AG/RES. 1984 (XXXIV-O/04), "Inter-American Committee on Social Development"; AG/RES. 2081 (XXXV-O/05), Poverty, Equity, and Social Inclusion: Follow-up to the Declaration of Margarita"; and AG/RES. 2085 (XXXV-O/05), "Report of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development";

BEARING IN MIND Note 060/2007 from the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the Organization of American States (OAS), dated March 9, 2007 (CEPCIDI/doc.788/07);

CONSIDERING that the Government of Chile offered to host the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI in the first half of 2008 (CEPCIDI/INF.7/07);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Heads of State and Government gathered at the Fourth Summit of the Americas entrusted the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI with considering, among other subjects, progress with respect to the commitments made in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) that pertain to its area of competence;

CONSIDERING that the functions of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development include following up on the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and advising on the preparation for and follow-up of the Meetings of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI; and

BEARING IN MIND that in resolution CEPCIDI/RES. 136 (CXXXII-O/07), "Convocation of the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development," the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) welcomed the proposal of the Minister of Planning of Chile and Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) (CEPCIDI/INF.8/07) that this meeting be held at the headquarters of the OAS in Washington, D.C., on October 8 and 9, 2007,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept with gratitude the offer by the Government of Chile to host the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI, to be held in the first half of 2008.
2. Also to welcome with satisfaction the proposal to hold the Second Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Social Development on October 8 and 9, 2007, in Washington, D.C., one of the main purposes of which will be to prepare for the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI.
3. To instruct the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) to work together with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to provide necessary support for the preparation for and follow-up of the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development within the Framework of CIDI.
4. To urge member states to send high-level authorities in the area of social development to take part in the two aforementioned meetings.
5. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide, through SEDI, the necessary support for the preparation for and follow-up of both meetings.
6. To instruct the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2312 (XXXVII-O/07)

REPORT OF THE FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND
HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 187 (XI-O/06), “First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI,” and CIDI/RES. 199 (XII-O/07), “Report on the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”; and

Resolution AG/RES. 2211 (XXXVI-O/06), “First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in the Declaration of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) the Heads of State and Government underlined the importance of holding, within the OAS framework, the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Sustainable Development, encouraged the participation of member states, and called upon the OAS to support the preparatory work necessary to make that meeting a success;

CONSIDERING:

That the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on December 4 and 5, 2006, with the technical support of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI); and

That after a fruitful dialogue, the Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development adopted the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006–2009) (PIDS); and

HAVING SEEN the report of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development (CIDI/RIMDS/doc.23/07),

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Bolivia for hosting the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI, precisely on the 10th anniversary of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 1996).

2. To endorse the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006–2009) (PIDS), which are an integral part of this resolution.

3. To urge the Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development to continue contributing to the achievement of the objectives set forth in the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and to implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006–2009) (PIDS).

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to collaborate, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), with authorities in the sustainable development sector in implementing the actions and agreements adopted during the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development and to report periodically on this process to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI).

DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ + 10

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on December 5, 2006)

1. We, the Ministers and High-Level Authorities responsible for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, gathered in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, reaffirm our commitment to advance the objectives of sustainable development, as set out in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (Agenda 21 and Declaration of Rio de Janeiro on Environment and Development); the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in 1996 (Declaration and its Plan of Action); the 2000 United Nations Millennium Summit and its Millennium Development Goals; and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002 (Declaration and its Plan of Implementation), among others.

2. We reiterate that human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development, that they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature, and that poverty alleviation is an integral part of sustainable development.

3. We acknowledge that the vulnerability of small island developing states in the Hemisphere continues to be a major challenge to their sustainable development, among other factors.

CONSIDERING:

4. That the eradication of poverty is a fundamental goal of sustainable development.

5. That combating poverty and reducing inequities are fundamental challenges faced by the Hemisphere today.

6. That the achievement of development goals agreed upon internationally, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, requires a new partnership between developed and developing countries to support national efforts to achieve sustainable development, including sound policies, good governance at all levels, and the rule of law.

7. That we recognize that the needs and responsibilities facing the countries of the Hemisphere today are diverse. Sustainable development does not assume that all the countries are at the same level of development, have the same capabilities, or can necessarily use the same model to attain it. In view of their different contributions to global environmental degradation, states have common but differentiated responsibilities in the global quest for sustainable development. We should make efforts to ensure that the benefits of sustainable development reach all countries in the Hemisphere, in particular those that are less developed, and all segments of our populations. We will give special attention to the small island states, whose environmental vulnerability, especially with regard to natural disasters, is greater owing to their geographic situation, their size, and the scale of their economies, among other factors.

8. That water is fundamental for life and basic for socioeconomic development and the conservation of ecosystems, and that, in this regard, its sustainable management must be promoted with a view to ensuring access to water for present and future generations, taking into account internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

9. That the impacts of natural disasters are devastating and negatively affect the quality of life of affected communities, and the development of all countries of the Hemisphere. That preventive and risk-mitigation measures can increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities.

10. That climate variability, including the El Niño and La Niña phenomena, and the adverse effects of climate change represent an increased risk to all countries in the Hemisphere, in particular developing countries.

11. That sustainable management of the agricultural, forest, and tourism sectors can enhance the capacity of those sectors to provide important economic, social, and environmental benefits that support the livelihood of families and local communities, including indigenous peoples.

12. That the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity benefit from, among others factors, the promotion of sustainable approaches to the agriculture, forest, and tourism sectors, and that the unsustainable use of natural resources generates a loss in biodiversity.

13. That protected areas, as well as the sustainable interaction of local communities, including indigenous peoples, with biodiversity, play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity.

14. That the economic, social, and environmental benefits resulting from the sustainable management of natural resources, including those arising from the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, can contribute to poverty alleviation, the reduction of inequities, and the promotion of equal opportunity in all countries. That regional integration, at the hemispheric, regional, subregional, and bilateral levels, including trade agreements, has the potential to contribute to sustainable development.

15. That the results of the technical preparatory workshops held in 2005 and 2006 and hosted by the Governments of Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Ecuador, and of the workshops with civil society, including indigenous peoples, held in Argentina, Bolivia, the United States, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the virtual forum, have provided valuable input to this Declaration.

DECLARE THAT:

16. We reiterate the commitments assumed in the Rio de Janeiro and Santa Cruz de la Sierra Summits; the Monterrey Consensus, from the International Conference on Financing for Development; the Johannesburg Summit, in particular Chapter X of its Plan of Implementation; and the Mauritius Summit, in relation to: the mobilization of financial and development resources; the transfer of environmentally sound, efficient, and effective technologies; and capacity building to advance the process of sustainable development, including the objective of poverty eradication.

17. We recognize, value, and respect the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the sustainable management of natural resources.

18. We will promote, within the framework of the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, broad public participation, including representation from the diverse sectors of society, public access to environmental information on a nondiscriminatory basis with regard to gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, political, religious, or other opinion, as well as institutional transparency and the achievement of conditions that favor social development and democracy.

19. We reaffirm our commitment to promote and strengthen policies, laws, and regional cooperation and integration mechanisms that advance public participation and democratic governance as important elements of sustainable development. We will promote institutional transparency, gender equity, and equal opportunities for all vulnerable groups.

I. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

20. We recognize that water is a limited natural resource essential for life, and that access to clean water and to sanitation services is indispensable to health and human dignity, as well as to sustainable development.

21. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen institutional capacities and to promote cooperation and dialogue among states to support integrated water resources management consistent with domestic law and relevant international law.

22. We recognize the urgent need to evaluate the effects of climate variability and climate change on water resources, as well as to strengthen early-warning capacities for extreme climatic events.

23. We recognize the importance of dialogue and regional cooperation to improve water-quality and quantity monitoring networks in order to promote and protect human health and the environment.

II. DISASTERS

24. We reaffirm our commitment to build upon relevant international commitments and frameworks, including through the development, implementation, and integration of disaster preparedness and management into sustainable development policies, planning, and programming at all levels.

25. We affirm our commitment to strengthening public policies and strategies that reduce the risks of natural disasters through an integrated approach.

26. We underscore the importance of promoting public-private sector partnerships, to help provide reasonable levels of safety, and to strengthen the monitoring and enforcement of appropriate safety standards.

27. We recognize the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction and the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response as mechanisms for regional cooperation.

III. SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

28. We recognize the importance of developing and implementing national forest programs, policies, and strategies, as appropriate, that strengthen the capacity of countries to address illegal practices in the forest sector, through the promotion of forest law enforcement, and governance at the national and sub-national levels, and regional and subregional levels, as appropriate.

29. We affirm the need to advance policies and initiatives that support sustainable tourism, including the exchange of information, the promotion of educational and awareness programs regarding the conservation of natural and cultural patrimonies, microfinancing opportunities for small-scale enterprises, and other mechanisms.

30. We recognize, in the framework of domestic legislations, that the development and implementation of strategies for managing protected areas as well as their buffer zones and conservation corridors should take into account the active participation of all stakeholders, particularly local communities, including indigenous peoples, in the local socio-political and cultural context.

RESOLVE:

INITIATIVES FOR ACTION

31. To entrust the General Secretariat of the OAS, within the framework of its mandates, and in coordination with other entities and international organizations, with promoting the mobilization of resources and technical assistance, for the implementation of agreed regional and subregional programs and projects on sustainable development, including the objective of poverty eradication.

I. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

32. To strive to increase access to clean drinking water and sanitation services for all peoples within the jurisdiction of each member state, on the basis of nondiscrimination, solidarity, and environmental sustainability.

33. To promote, as appropriate and with the consent of the involved states, the undertaking of studies, plans, programs, projects, and joint actions for the protection and sustainable use of surface and ground water resources, wetland ecosystems, and associated biodiversity. To this

end, existing cooperation mechanisms, at the bilateral, subregional, and regional levels, will be strengthened, fostering the exchange of information and experiences and the coordination of actions.

34. To advance integrated water resources management, strengthening good governance through, *inter alia*, public participation, institutional transparency, and access to environmental information.

II. DISASTERS

35. To promote initiatives taking into account existing mechanisms that seek to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, through regional cooperation, as well as policy and strategy coordination on this matter. Moreover, to promote regional and subregional cooperation for the development of people-centered early-warning systems against disasters, thereby contributing to the prevention of negative impacts on vulnerable populations.

36. To strengthen national initiatives and institutions in disaster reduction planning, the adoption and enforcement of construction, rehabilitation, and reconstruction practices that increase the resilience of communities and economic sectors to natural disaster impacts. To develop and implement an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, including hazard mapping, early-warning systems, and sanitation and infrastructure programs.

37. To promote and to strengthen the inclusion of disaster management in development planning processes.

38. To continue with the exchange of information and experience regarding the mapping of risk zones, people-centered early-warning systems, and other technical aspects of risk reduction through the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation, and other mechanisms and initiatives.

39. To enhance the exchange of information and experiences regarding the necessary adjustments to reduce the negative impacts of natural disasters, climate variability, and climate change.

III. SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

40. To support sustainable agricultural practices and innovations and recognize that they may be enriched by indigenous knowledge and environmentally appropriate technologies.

41. To promote greater coordination among the sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management, and sustainable tourism sectors, through the development of policies that consider *in situ* conservation and integrated land management.

42. To formulate public policies consistent with relevant international commitments regarding the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by

appropriate access to genetic resources, and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to those technologies, and by appropriate funding.

43. To recognize and value the importance of traditional knowledge and its potential contribution to sustainable development.

44. To strengthen efforts at the national level towards the protection of ecosystems and the services they provide and the valuation of their contribution to sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management, and sustainable tourism, and to facilitate the regional exchange of information, experiences, and lessons learned.

45. To facilitate access by local actors in member countries to microfinance credit systems and other innovative financing systems, such as payment for benefits provided by ecosystems and other initiatives that promote conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. Likewise, to promote support for research, technical assistance, and access to modern and environmentally sound technology.

CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

46. We recognize that democratic governance is a key factor for sustainable development in our Hemisphere. We reaffirm that each country has primary responsibility for its own sustainable development through promotion of good governance at all levels, respect for the rule of law, and effective law enforcement. In undertaking to promote sustainable development within our countries, we acknowledge the fundamental importance of democratic principles and institutions, and transparency.

47. We also recognize that environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

48. We call upon the international community to support national development efforts through mobilization of resources, technical assistance, institutional strengthening, and technology transfer.

49. We will promote national institutional capacity building and the strengthening of national environmental laws to ensure their effective enforcement.

50. We will promote environmental impact assessments in accordance with national law.

51. We will strengthen regional and subregional cooperation on sustainable development, particularly regarding environmental education and awareness, the training and enhancement of human resources, and the creation and strengthening of networks and other cooperation mechanisms.

52. We adopt the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006–2009) (PIDS).

53. We will promote the implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development in collaboration, as appropriate, with civil society, the private sector, and international financial institutions.

54. We entrust the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development, in collaboration with other pertinent bodies, with coordinating, monitoring, and supporting the implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development.

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2006–2009)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on December 5, 2006)

I. BACKGROUND

The member states of the OAS recognize that sustainable development requires an integral approach involving economic, social, and environmental elements moving in tandem to support development, to reduce poverty, and to promote equality, equity, and social inclusion.

OAS member states have defined and reiterated their support for sustainable development in a number of meetings, declarations, and resolutions. In particular, Declarations and Plans of Action have defined the role of sustainable development and the environment in contributing to economic, social, educational, and cultural development.

A number of resolutions adopted since the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 1996, have reiterated the support of OAS member states to the objective of sustainable development.

The Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2006–2009, approved by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) at its 11th regular meeting, in 2006 (CIDI/RES. 178 (XI-O/06)), and adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session, in 2006 [resolution AG/RES. 2201 (XXXVI-O/06)] establishes sustainable development and the environment as a priority area of CIDI activity. The Strategic Plan emphasizes, *inter alia*, within that priority area, the importance of:

- Supporting member states in their efforts to integrate environmental protection within policies, regulations, and projects on natural resource management;
- Strengthening the capability of member states to identify and mitigate the risks of natural and man-made disasters, in order to mainstream planning of both areas within economic development policies, working at the sector-specific levels with the private sector and civil society;
- Supporting public-private collaboration in human resource capacity-building in the sharing of scientific information, best environmental management practices, regulatory standards, and enforcement issues; and encouraging the use of information and communication technologies in support of sustainable development;
- Promoting the development of sustainable energy policies and projects, in cooperation with the private sector, in order to expand renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy security in the region;
- Ensuring that sustainable development policies and projects help reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas, identify and support new competitive and investment opportunities, and create and sustain jobs and livelihoods.

The Declaration and Plan of Action—adopted at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in 1996—reaffirm that human beings are entitled to live a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

The Inter-American Program to Combat Poverty and Discrimination (adopted in 1997) outlines actions and policies with respect to social development, emphasizing that social and economic development are part of the same process. Accordingly, OAS member states are committed to promoting human rights, and supporting the exchange of information on such issues, *inter alia*, as modernizing public institutions and social management, strengthening mechanisms for the participation of civil society, and promoting and financing social investment.

The Third Summit of the Americas—held in Quebec City, Canada, in 2001—reaffirmed the commitment of the member states to strengthen environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources, and focused on several priority areas, including: disaster management, vulnerability assessments of Small Island Developing States, agricultural management and rural development, efficient transportation systems, energy, natural resources management and biodiversity protection, health, hemispheric security, and integrated water resources management.

Member states have reiterated their support for sustainable development in several declarations and resolutions. For example, the Inter-American Democratic Charter—adopted in Lima, Peru, in September 2001—establishes values and principles of liberty, equality, and social justice, and recognizes that democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. Article 15 of the Charter encourages member states to implement policies of environmental protection, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.

The Hemisphere is facing important challenges related to the management of the environment at national and regional levels to achieve sustainable levels of social and economic development. Since 1992, a number of international meetings have been held with the goal of advancing the sustainable development agenda and underlining the relationship among poverty, inequality, inequity, and social exclusion. Examples include the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; the International Conference on Financing for Development—held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002—at which the “Monterrey Consensus” was adopted; the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002. Commitments and initiatives adopted by the member states at the regional and global levels within the Summit of the Americas process; in the Monterrey Consensus, whose goal is to, *inter alia*, “achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development”; and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, call for hemispheric action.

The Declaration of Kingstown on the Security of Small Island States, adopted in January 2003 in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, at the Second High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States, notes that small island states have peculiar characteristics which render them especially vulnerable and susceptible to security risks, threats, concerns, and other challenges of a multidimensional and transnational nature, involving political, economic, social, health, environmental, and geographic factors.

In the Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas, adopted by the OAS General Assembly in 2003, member states established that democratic governance obliges us to focus on the responsible management of public affairs as an essential factor in the sustainable development of our countries with social, ethnic, and gender equity.

Within the broad area of security, environmental security has been linked to sustainable development. The Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico in October 2003, in its Declaration on Security in the Americas stated that the security threats, concerns, and other challenges in the hemispheric context are of diverse nature and multidimensional scope, and the traditional concept and approach must be expanded to encompass new and nontraditional threats, which include political, economic, social, health, and environmental aspects. To this end, the Declaration recognizes that environmental deterioration affects the quality of life of our peoples and may constitute a threat, concern, or challenge to the security of states in the Hemisphere. Special attention has been given to the small island states, whose environmental vulnerability, especially with regard to natural disasters, is greater owing to their geographic situation, their size, and the scale of their economies, among other factors.

The Declaration of Nuevo León adopted at the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in January 2004, emphasized the member states' commitment to increase cooperation and strengthen the institutions responsible for coordinating and implementing measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters on people, and highlighted the belief that ensuring environmental health for the people of the Americas represents an investment for long-term well-being and prosperity.

Mention must be made also of the work carried out at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port-Louis, Mauritius, in 2005.

The Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in 2005, reaffirms, among other things, the commitment of member states to coordinating international efforts in support of sustainable development policies, as well as to promoting greater access for people to health care.

II. MANDATE AND CONTEXT

The objectives of the Inter-American Program are set out broadly in the mandates of the Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994; Santiago, 1998; Quebec City, 2001; Monterrey, 2004; and Mar del Plata, 2005) and especially the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Bolivia, 1996), as well as the General Assembly, CIDI, CIDS, and other resolutions. For example, in 1996, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) established an Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) as a subsidiary organ of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI). The CIDS is charged with formulating policy objectives in support of sustainable development and with preparing an Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS). In establishing the PIDS, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of ensuring that OAS activities were closely coordinated with developments in other

international organizations. In this regard, the OAS role in implementing all aspects of the PIDS will be consistent with, and complementary to, those of other relevant regional and multilateral entities, particularly with the United Nations.

General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96), resolution CIDI/CIDS/RES.1 (III-O/02), and Article 95 of the OAS Charter provide that CIDI formulate a strategic plan involving policies, programs, and projects in support of integral development. In this context, the OAS will:

- a. Serve as a hemispheric forum to promote dialogue and coordinate progress in the area of sustainable development;
- b. Support the exchange of information relating to sustainable development and facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries, institutions, and organizations; and
- c. Act as a partner in cooperation among stakeholders involved in sustainable development in those areas in which the OAS General Secretariat has a comparative advantage.

In addition, member states recognize that the Inter-American Program should contribute to the implementation of plans of action and recommendations set out in Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; the Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted in Johannesburg in 2002; as well as declarations and plans of action adopted in a variety of international and regional conferences, including, *inter alia*, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, in 1994.

At the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas (the Plan of Action of Santa Cruz) were adopted. The Plan of Action proposes a range of initiatives to be carried out by governments, individually and collectively.

The First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in December 2006, adopted this Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2006–2009, and in the “Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10” called for its implementation.

III. STRATEGIC AREAS OF ACTION

The objective of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development is to serve the interests of member states by reaffirming strategic priorities of action for the period 2006 to 2009, within the overarching framework of sustainable development.

The Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development will carry out its priority activities in the following areas:

3.1 Sustainable Agriculture and the Sustainable Management of Forests and Other Natural Resources

Sustainable agriculture and the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources require an integral approach to the various themes that comprise this area and the identification of successful opportunities through cooperation in regard to environmental management at the project and policy level.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a regional forum for:
 - i. Advancing the dialogue in integrated approaches to alternative land uses and planning.
 - ii. Facilitating the adoption of strategies and integrated policies, in coordination with other institutions such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations (CSD), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), multilateral technical and financial cooperation agencies, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank, the Permanent Secretariats of the United Nations Conventions on Biological Diversity and to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Ramsar Regional Center for the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), and others as appropriate, to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in our region, as well as improve the quality of life of the poorest rural segments of society. Special emphasis should be given to areas and countries affected by processes of desertification, within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- b. Promote the exchange of information for:

Supporting the governments in their establishment of an inter-American network for sharing of information and best practices related to sustainable agriculture, the sustainable management of forests, and other related topics, taking into account the experience and activity of other multilateral, regional, and national initiatives and programs in this area, such as the Sustainable Development Network Programme (SDNP-UNDP).

c. Provide cooperation for:

Developing action plans and/or carrying out, at the request of member states, projects for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources including protection of watersheds and sensitive biodiversity resources.

3.2 Water Resources, Land, and Health

The Inter-American Program has the objective of improving water resources management practices in order to assure quality water for human consumption and ensure its sustainable use for the current and future generations without damaging the environment. The Program also calls for the OAS to cooperate with various institutions, organizations, and agencies in the inter-American and United Nations systems to provide support to the member states, particularly in integrated water resources management. The development of actions related to integrated water resources management builds on the experience that the OAS has acquired over the past decades working in water resources management throughout the Hemisphere.

Land degradation is recognized as one of the major global environmental and sustainable development challenges of the 21st century. The Inter-American Program, working in coordination with other regional and international organizations, supports and promotes integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to address land degradation issues within the framework of sustainable development, assisting governments, when requested.

The countries of the Hemisphere have emphasized that one of the pillars of human development is equitable access to health services. Efforts must be made to develop care and promotion strategies to prevent and minimize the negative impacts to the environment and human health.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

a. Serve as a regional forum to:

- i. Support, with the consent of states concerned, mechanisms for inter-governmental dialogue and cooperation in the development of policies and strategies, and for integrated water resources management, in accordance with relevant international laws, and integrated land management.
- ii. Facilitate and strengthen the dialogue to address the problems that create linkages between environmental degradation and health, in support of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) initiative, with the participation of the Pan American Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

- iii. Support initiatives in full collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization to integrate actions related to provide good quality water and sanitation for the population.
 - iv. Promote cross-sectoral approaches to integrated water resources management, in accordance with relevant international law, and to land use planning, integrating the ecological, economic, and social dimensions in program and project design.
- b. Promote the exchange of information to:
- i. Support actions to encourage the dissemination and exchange of information and experiences in water resources management and land tenure and management among the countries of the Hemisphere, by strengthening information mechanisms and networks.
 - ii. Support and promote special meetings such as World Water Forums and the Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management at the hemispheric level, as well as support subregional meetings to facilitate discussion among water authorities and the society concerned with water management.
 - iii. Share best practices, disseminate information, and facilitate discussions related to strengthening policy, institutional, and legal frameworks, to address water and land resource degradation problems, and the linkages between environmental degradation and health issues.
 - iv. Strengthen the policy dialogue between the Pan American Health Organization and the OAS to foster promotion of initiatives related to water and health.
- c. Provide cooperation to:
- i. Support member states in the formulation and execution of strategic action programs for integrated water management to promote sustainable development.
 - ii. Establish, among member states, mechanisms for integrated water resources management, taking into consideration public participation in the decision-making process.
 - iii. Support member states in their efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and policy, regulatory, and legal programs related to the implementation of integrated water resources management and land management practices, including rehabilitation of ecosystems.

- iv. Support activities of member states in the formulation and implementation of programs and projects oriented to addressing threats to health caused by environmental degradation, including threats to water quality that entail problems associated with hazardous wastes and persistent organic pollutants.
- v. Support member states in the design and implementation of programs and projects for sustainable fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture development.
- vi. Support member states in advancing the development of programs and institutional policies that enable the recognition of wetlands as indispensable ecosystems in the recharge of aquifers, in the conservation of biodiversity, and in the supply of quality water, as well as the strengthening of actions that ensure the ecological wealth of wetlands.

3.3 Natural Hazards Risk Management

One fundamental component in sustainable development is the support provided to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards through an integrated approach and thus avoid disasters or mitigate their effects on people, infrastructure, and the natural resources base, which support economic development. Activities such as assistance with policy formulation, hazard and vulnerability assessments, training in disaster mitigation techniques, and formulation of mitigation measures for development investment projects are carried out as part of ongoing technical cooperation programs with collaborating national, regional, and international institutions. In this sense, the commitments adopted by the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) through the Joint Consultative Body of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI), in compliance with resolutions AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06), will be taken into account, in particular in the areas related to systematic risk management, including risk identification, risk reduction, and risk transfer. Commitments assumed in the *Hyogo Declaration*, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, January 2005, will also be taken into account. Support will be focused and given to national and regional initiatives on issues of prevention, mitigation, and attention to disasters through an integrated approach, which would include organizations on civil protection and disaster management and development planning agencies.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a hemispheric forum to support national, regional, and hemispheric actions to:
 - i. Promote sustainable development by reducing the vulnerability of economic and social infrastructure to natural hazards in national development plans.

- ii. Promote sustainable public/private natural hazard risk management mechanisms that substantially lessen loss of life, prevent and reduce potential damage, and shorten the effects of the disaster recovery period.
 - iii. Improve public awareness and decision-making in development planning by disseminating hazard-prone area maps.
 - iv. Foster catastrophe loss protection in the region by supporting the efforts of development lending institutions and the insurance industry to improve natural hazard risk management.
 - v. Encourage private-sector and civil society involvement in community-based disaster preparedness and prevention activities.
 - vi. Support the implementation of OAS General Assembly and CIDS resolutions on natural hazards vulnerability reduction.
 - vii. Promote the strengthening of early-warning systems that are people-centered, in particular, systems whose warnings are timely and understandable to those at risk, which take into account the demographic, gender, cultural, and livelihood characteristics of the target audiences.
 - viii. Consider the characteristics and special needs of the Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries in relation to adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change and of climate variability and, in this sense, grant them, as deemed appropriate, special attention in terms of facilitating financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building.
- b. Encourage the exchange of information to:
- i. Facilitating the interpretation of natural hazard information.
 - ii. Reducing natural hazard vulnerability through emergency preparedness, planning, investment, and scientific research.
 - iii. Reducing or eliminating the destructive effects of recurring hazardous events on people and their economic and social infrastructure through the application of appropriate risk reduction measures.
 - iv. Supporting established networks for the exchange of experiences and methods in the forecasting and mitigation of natural hazard events.

- c. Provide cooperation to:
 - i. Promote community-based prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and response in cases of disaster.
 - ii. Identify natural hazard assessments and the evaluation of financial, economic and physical risk.
 - iii. Promote hazard-resistant building practices and standards.
 - iv. Assist in the implementation of vulnerability and risk audits of lifelines and critical facilities in order to promote life safety and loss reduction.
 - v. Foster the study of the use of vulnerability reduction incentives and hazard mitigation in the property insurance industry.
 - vi. Facilitate technical training and information dissemination.
 - vii. Support the incorporation of natural hazards mitigation goals and objectives in national development plans, the adoption of appropriate building codes and zoning procedures, and the preparation, strengthening, and implementation of regional disaster reduction plans.
 - viii. Support the coordination of international and national activities aimed at the preparation of sector vulnerability profiles and investment plans to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters.

3.4 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

Biodiversity plays a critical role in the sustainable development of the countries of the region. It is a key component of the fight against hunger and other manifestations of poverty. It is essential to the well-being of humanity and the world as a whole. To avoid the loss of biodiversity, efforts must be made for formulating public policies consistent with relevant international commitments regarding the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, with due consideration for both the benefits and risks of biotechnology. Efforts will also be made to recognize and value the importance of traditional knowledge and its potential contribution to sustainable development.

The OAS will take the following actions to encourage the development and coordinated work in this area, taking into account the relevant instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Desertification (UNCCD), and the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and other relevant regional and multilateral mechanisms.

- a. Serve as a regional forum for:
 - i. Promoting integrated approaches to land use that mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the land-use planning and land management process.
 - ii. Promoting discussion of biodiversity at the inter-American level in order to advance strategies for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
 - iii. Promoting networks such as Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and other actions and activities that facilitate sharing information and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and otherwise support the achievement of the objectives in the conventions listed above. In addition, exploring the development of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) in a manner that reflects the interests and priorities of all member states.
 - iv. Facilitating the adoption of strategies and integrated policies to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in our region, on mutually agreed terms, as well as improving the quality of life of the poorest rural segments of society, in coordination with other organizations, and promoting dialogue to avoid duplication of efforts. Special emphasis should be given to understanding linkages between the processes of desertification and biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, water-related issues, and climate change.
 - v. Strengthening the capacity of member states to promote sustainable forest management and to address illegal practices, in accordance with national legislation, through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the national, sub-national, regional, and subregional levels, including through collaboration with inter-governmental and nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate.
 - vi. Supporting the effective implementation and enforcement, at the national and sub-national levels, of laws, policies, and regulations that address illegal trade in endangered species and protection of wild flora and fauna, including through the implementation of

CITES, as well as the promotion of strategies to address the loss of habitat for wildlife.

- b. Promote the exchange of information for:
 - i. Supporting the governments in the management of an Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network to promote compatible standards and interoperable means of collection, communication, and exchange of information relevant to decision-making and capacity building on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
 - ii. In coordination with governments, identifying gaps in knowledge and new fields of interest, as well as a research agenda to support conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
 - iii. Improving regional cooperation for biodiversity management through the sharing of experience and expertise in protected areas and natural habitats.
 - iv. Creating and strengthening the capacity to address critical issues at a regional level, such as invasive species, migratory species, amphibian declines, wildlife trafficking, and the spread of wildlife and zoonotic diseases, among others.
 - v. Developing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and building capacity in member countries to participate actively in the development of data layers and assessment of environmental information as it relates to sustainable development and protection of human health and biodiversity.
- c. Provide cooperation for:
 - i. Carrying out regional, subregional, and bilateral projects for the management and sustainable use of biological diversity, including wildlife and forests, and formulating strategies and considering coordinated action plans for managing natural ecosystems and biological resources shared by two or more countries.
 - ii. Supporting countries, upon joint agreed request, in identifying new protected areas in the region, and formulating plans for the management of protected areas and buffer zones with similar characteristics, and for establishing, restoring, or consolidating biological corridors, as jointly agreed by those countries where the Protected Area would be located.

- iii. Promoting integrated soil management and measures to combat desertification through sustainable development projects and integrated regional studies for such purposes as reversing significant degradation and erosion, in conformity with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- iv. Assisting member states, at their request, in strengthening activities in support of the development of environmental legislation to conserve biodiversity and water resources and to combat desertification.
- v. Strengthening technical and institutional capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of plants, animals, and ecosystems.
- vi. Building cooperative initiatives at a hemispheric, regional, and subregional level among environmental, natural resource, and law enforcement authorities to enhance the capacity to detect and effectively respond to illegal transboundary trade in wild flora and fauna to strengthen implementation of obligations under CITES.

3.5 Coastal Zone Management and Adaptation to Climate Change

A key component of the Inter-American Program is the support to countries and subregional and regional institutions in their efforts to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly sea-level rise, in coastal and marine areas through vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning, and capacity building. In this context, the OAS will promote measures to counter the adverse effects of climate change in the socioeconomic fields.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Promote the exchange of information in order to:
 - i. Formulate policies and options for cost-effective response and adaptation to the impacts of global climate change.
 - ii. Enable the further integration and linkages between initiatives and projects addressing adaptation to climate change, and mitigation of natural disasters.
 - iii. Establish databases and information systems to allow key regional and national institutions to acquire, analyze, store, and disseminate data on climate change and the impacts on natural and man-made systems.
 - iv. Increase knowledge on the impact of climate change and greenhouse gas emission on socioeconomic sectors and natural resources.

- b. Provide cooperation in order to:
 - i. Establish and operate sea level/climate and coral-reef monitoring networks.
 - ii. Develop appropriate methodologies for coastal vulnerability and risk assessment and mapping.

3.6 Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficiency Promotion

The Inter-American Program considers the development and use of renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies and systems as key components of sustainable development.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a regional forum for:
 - i. Organizing and implementing the Renewable Energy in the Americas Initiative (REIA), which builds collaborative partnerships to accelerate the use of renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies throughout the Americas.
 - ii. Participating in renewable energy and energy-efficiency partnerships launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD).
 - iii. Promoting policy and regulatory measures to advance the use of renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies in the Americas.
 - iv. Developing and accessing innovative financing mechanisms suited to the technical characteristics of renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies and appropriate to the social and economic needs of the demographically diverse end-users.
 - v. Identifying and promoting renewable energy and energy-efficiency project opportunities in the Americas.
 - vi. Sharing information on renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies and delivering technical assistance and training on matters related to sustainable energy development.

3.7 Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development and Environmental Management

The exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. Democratic governance requires the development of responsible management

of public affairs as an essential factor in the sustainable development of the member states and the promotion of civil society participation. Governance and environmental management place priority on identifying best practices, developing technical skills at the institutional and local levels to assess and manage linkages among environmental, social, and economic issues, which are the components of sustainable development. The OAS will collaborate with the development of integral policies that take said components into account. In that regard, the OAS will work towards the development and strengthening of environmental law, in support of sustainable development priorities established by the member states. Environmental management will consider at the outset and in an adequate manner the protection of those communities that depend on natural resources for their economic subsistence.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a regional forum to:
 - i. Facilitate dialogue towards the consideration of technical, social, and economic issues in environmental management, including the rights that may derive from those of the traditional indigenous knowledge, stressing that these are issues related to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which deal specifically with the topic.
 - ii. Facilitate the exchange of information and experiences in environmental law and policies, in particular, through the governmental experts designated by the member states to participate in the activities of the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA).
 - iii. Continue collaborating through FIDA in cooperative efforts towards developing and strengthening environmental laws, policies, and institutions, and in cooperation with member states, reinforce instruments or incentives of environmental compliance utilized by the member states in the establishment of their policies and legislation.
 - iv. Exchange information concerning environmental cooperation activities in the territory of the member states and develop a list of relevant programs and projects funded by cooperation partners in the Americas.
- b. Promote the exchange of information to:
 - i. Foster collaboration with public, private, and civil society organizations interested in the law and environmental policy.

- ii. Foster collaboration among experts on environmental law and policies.
 - iii. Support the development and implementation of national and international environmental policies.
 - iv. Support member states in complying with the commitments acquired through environmental agreements and in making decisions related to sustainable development, taking into account the environmental, economic, and social dimensions.
 - v. Generate profiles of best practices for sustainable development and environmental management of trade transportation corridors in coordination with regional infrastructure integration strategies.
- c. Provide cooperation to:
- i. Develop capacities in support of good environmental management, especially in the areas of environmental policies, legislation, regulations, and standards.
 - ii. Support member states in the incorporation of environmental policies into their development plans.
 - iii. Build capacity, through technical and analytical support, upon request of member states, to undertake environmental impact assessments to minimize economic, environmental, and social externalities.
 - iv. Support the development of environmental legislation in member states.

IV. COOPERATION AND FINANCING

We entrust the General Secretariat of the OAS, within the framework of its mandate and in coordination with other entities and international organizations, with promoting the mobilization of resources and technical assistance, for the implementation of agreed regional and subregional programs and projects on sustainable development, including the objective of poverty eradication.

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and its Department of Sustainable Development, in coordination with and with the assistance of the competent specialized offices and units, will support the activities that arise from the program.

Member states recognize the multidisciplinary and intersectoral nature of sustainable development and the environment. Accordingly, the Program implementation shall emphasize close, ongoing cooperation and coordination with multilateral and regional organizations that are charged with implementing programs, projects, and policies of relevance to the priorities identified herein. Moreover, the Program implementation shall take into account developments in other bodies, and identify synergies with international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, community groups, research bodies, and others in order to ensure that measurable progress is made. In order to ensure that the implementation of the Program proceeds in an efficient, cost-effective, and cooperative manner, a programmatic monitoring and evaluation system shall be established.

The Department of Sustainable Development will present to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) an annual work program based on the guidelines of the CIDI Strategic Plan. In addition, the Department of Sustainable Development will prepare semester progress reports on the implementation of this Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development. In its annual work program the Department of Sustainable Development will, *inter alia*, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Inter-American Program and define a strategy for mobilizing funds to support the financing of the Program. The annual work program will include provision for monitoring the implementation and evaluating the results of the Program. A comprehensive ample evaluation of the impact will be undertaken in the final year of the Program, in accordance with the existing resources available for this purpose. The Department shall also present reports on the implementation of the Program to the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development or other appropriate sectoral meetings, which can propose updates to the Program.

There are three sources of funds to support the implementation of the Program: the regular budget, the Sector Account for Sustainable Development and Environment of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI), and external funds. There is a relationship among these three funding sources, and the extent of the regular budget and FEMCIDI to raise and manage external funds. Its purpose is also to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in serving the needs of the member states in their execution of mandates in the area of sustainable development.

The resources in the Sector Account for Sustainable Development and Environment of FEMCIDI should be used to implement activities arising from the Program. Accordingly, member states are encouraged to present multinational projects following these criteria, and the Department of Sustainable Development is to support member states that so request in the formulation of such projects, and shall cooperate with those member states in the search for additional external funding sources for their execution.

Moreover, the Department of Sustainable Development will provide support for the design and implementation of pilot projects to promote effective participation in innovative programs designed to promote sustainable development and environmental issues.

AG/RES. 2313 (XXXVII-O/07)

CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR
INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT BY MEMBER STATES THAT HAVE NOT
RATIFIED THE PROTOCOL OF MANAGUA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), "Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) When Said Protocol Enters into Force," and resolutions AG/RES. 1442 (XXVI-O/96), AG/RES. 1507 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1575 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1726 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1815 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1863 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1910 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1978 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2090 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2214 (XXXVI-O/06), CIDI/RES. 24 (II-O/97), CIDI/RES. 42 (III-O/98), CIDI/RES. 83 (IV-O/99), CIDI/RES. 94 (V-O/00), CIDI/RES. 4 (I-E/01), CIDI/RES. 116 (VII-O/02), CIDI/RES. 138 (VIII-O/03), CIDI/RES. 141 (IX-O/04), CIDI/RES. 177 (X-O/05), CIDI/RES. 191 (XI-O/06), and CIDI/RES. 200 (XII-O/07), on continuation of the aforementioned participation;

EMPHASIZING the amendments made to the Charter of the Organization of American States to incorporate the elimination of extreme poverty as a basic objective of integral development (Protocol of Washington) and to establish an Inter-American Council for Integral Development to promote cooperation among the American states for the purpose of achieving their integral development and, in particular, helping to eliminate extreme poverty (Protocol of Managua); and

CONSIDERING that as of the date of this resolution there are still member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states that have signed and not ratified the Protocol of Washington, which incorporates the elimination of extreme poverty as a basic objective of development, and the Protocol of Managua, which establishes the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), to consider doing so as soon as possible.

2. To extend the period during which its resolution AG/RES. 2 (XXII-E/96), "Participation of Member States That Have Not Ratified the Protocol of Managua in the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) When Said Protocol Enters into Force," will remain in force until the next regular session of the General Assembly, which will review the situation if at that time there are still member states that have not ratified the Protocol of Managua.

AG/RES. 2314 (XXXVII-O/07)

NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION, RISK MANAGEMENT, AND ASSISTANCE
IN NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTER SITUATIONS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the section on the work of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) pertaining to natural disasters and risk management;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

By the devastation in several member states caused by diverse natural disasters, including floods and droughts caused by El Niño—a cyclical phenomenon associated with warm water currents in the Pacific Ocean—landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and hurricanes, which have resulted in losses suffered by their populations, including the tragic loss of life, substantial damage to their economic and social infrastructure, and the resulting negative impact on their development objectives and their poverty eradication efforts, exacerbated by the diversion of financial resources to disaster response and away from sustainable development;

By the conclusions and recommendations of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), also referred to as AR4 and published in 2007, whose summary for policymakers was adopted at the 10th meeting of Working Group I, in Paris, in February 2007 and which is pending approval by the Plenary; and

By the findings in that same report on climate change and sustainable development suggesting that a way to increase adaptability is to introduce climate change impact considerations in development plans, including measures for adaptation of land-use planning and infrastructure design;

REAFFIRMING the importance of urgently reducing the vulnerability of member states to natural hazards through the development of national natural disaster reduction strategies, mutual assistance, technical cooperation, land-use planning, and improvement of building codes;

RECOGNIZING the need to include a gender perspective in the Organization's activities related to natural disaster reduction and risk management;

CONSIDERING that effective natural disaster reduction and mitigation is dependent on a high degree of preparedness, effective mobilization, and coordination of the governments of the countries affected at all levels, as well as of the private sector and nongovernmental, community, and civil society organizations;

RECOGNIZING:

The important role of the Committee on Hemispheric Security in coordinating cooperation among the organs and mechanisms of the Organization related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere, including natural and man-made disasters, in the framework of the Declaration on Security in the Americas;

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), in accordance with its Statutes and the Statutes of the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM), as one of the principal regional instruments for assisting member states in preparing for, responding to, and reducing vulnerability to natural and other disasters, and as the advisory body to FONDEM and to the states parties to the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance;

The commitments made by member states to meet the natural disaster risk reduction goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, January 18–22, 2005), including the important role of regional organizations in helping to achieve those goals;

The efforts of subregional intergovernmental organizations, such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), and the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE), in support of implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action; and

The need to continue strengthening the Organization's planning and management activities so as to respond more effectively to the frequent natural disasters in the Hemisphere;

RECALLING:

Its prior resolutions on natural disaster reduction and risk management [AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06) and AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05)], on natural disaster reduction [AG/RES. 2024 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 1955 (XXXIII-O/03), and AG/RES. 1885 (XXXII-O/02)], and on OAS natural disaster reduction mechanisms [AG/RES. 1803 (XXXI-O/01) and AG/RES. 1755 (XXX-O/00)]; and

The commitment undertaken by the member states, set forth in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005, to substantially improve the capacity at national, regional, and hemispheric levels for risk mitigation; to implement early-warning systems; to enhance disaster recovery, reconstruction, and resilience capabilities in collaboration with relevant regional institutions; and to explore with relevant international and regional institutions the coordinated development of effective public-private catastrophic risk insurance systems;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Sustainable Development within the Framework of CIDI, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on December 4 and 5, 2006, expressed in the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 that the impacts of natural disasters are

devastating and negatively affect the quality of life of affected communities and the development of all countries of the Hemisphere and that risk prevention and mitigation measures can increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities;

That at that same meeting, the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and its Department of Sustainable Development, established the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM);

That the 34 member states have been invited to designate their national operational focal points to coordinate and serve as national liaisons with the competent governmental, nongovernmental, and private organizations, within their national territories, for all INDM-related matters;

That in most countries the national operational focal points for the INDM are the government agencies responsible for natural-disaster preparedness, prevention, and mitigation; and

That the General Secretariat, through SEDI and its Department of Sustainable Development, cooperated with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in organizing the Americas Regional Forum on International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL), held in Panama in April 2007; and

NOTING the ongoing coordination initiatives of the General Secretariat, through the Office of the Assistant Secretary General and SEDI and its Department of Sustainable Development, with the participation of international financial institutions; and the important work of the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system in matters related to natural disasters, in their areas of competence,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the mandates set forth in resolution AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06) and to continue to accord high priority to the topic of natural disaster reduction, risk management, and assistance in natural and other disaster situations.

2. To request the member states to continue attaching importance to climate variability, including the El Niño and La Niña phenomena, and the adverse affects of climate change, which represent additional risks for all the countries in the Hemisphere, especially for developing countries.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and its Department of Sustainable Development:

- a. To cooperate with member states and to coordinate its efforts with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE), relevant United Nations agencies, and other national centers in the member states, in order to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action; and

- b. To work closely with the appropriate national, regional, and international agencies on increasing the resilience of local communities and the most vulnerable sectors, with emphasis on developing and implementing risk self-assessment tools and systems; reducing the vulnerability of physical infrastructure, principally in the housing and education sectors; and increasing the ability to adapt to climate variations, considering climate change scenarios, and including zoning, vulnerability maps, and planning for land use and tenancy; and
 - c. To work closely with the private sector, with international, regional, subregional, and national natural disaster preparedness and response agencies, and with nongovernmental emergency response organizations in eliminating obstacles to humanitarian assistance and to risk transfer, with particular emphasis on strengthening the necessary legal frameworks.
 - d. To compile and disseminate information on diverse regional and international experiences regarding insurance-related aspects of disaster prevention and mitigation, especially agricultural insurance for family-run small-scale farms or tenant farmers' plots, in order to benefit the most vulnerable sectors.
4. To recognize the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) as the permanent hemispheric mechanism for strengthening practical cooperation among intergovernmental agencies in the area of disaster reduction, especially by sharing technical information and best practices.
5. To request the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), with support from the INDM, to update the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policies on Risk Reduction, Risk Management, and Disaster Response (IASP); and to urge the member states to establish near-term implementation time frames for its recommendations, in accordance with the national laws in effect in their countries.
6. To request the Permanent Council, with support from the INDM, to convene, for the first half of 2008, a meeting of high-level national authorities on natural disaster reduction and risk management, with the participation of the private sector, of subregional, national, and international agencies and organizations, and of nongovernmental, community, and civil society organizations.
7. To urge each state party to the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance to designate a national coordinating authority pursuant to the terms of the Convention, taking into consideration the functions of the national operational focal points of the INDM, and to notify the General Secretariat of that designation.
8. Once again to invite those member states that have not already done so to give consideration to signing and/or ratifying the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance, as the case may be, and to adopt the measures necessary for its effective implementation.

9. To request the General Secretariat to work, through its Department of Sustainable Development, on strengthening the technical capacity of member states in the areas addressed in the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance.

10. To request the IACNDR and the General Secretariat to submit a joint annual report to the Permanent Council on the fulfillment of the mandates of the General Assembly and the Statutes of the IACNDR.

11. To instruct the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

12. To request the Permanent Council to report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

13. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General and to the competent subregional agencies.

AG/RES. 2315 (XXXVII-O/07)

PARTICIPATION OF WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES IN
ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution CIDI/RES. 201 (XII-O/07), "Participation of Workers' Representatives in Activities of the Organization of American States";

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) recognizes the importance of the contribution of civil society organizations, such as labor unions, to the life of society and to the development process;

RECOGNIZING:

That, in the Declaration of Quebec City of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government "call upon all citizens of the Americas to contribute to the Summit process"; and

That, in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government pledged to "promote an inclusive social tripartite and transparent dialogue as an instrument for the proposition of policies and resolution of labor conflicts in order to strengthen representation and stimulate the participation of unions and of employer organizations in the formulation and implementation of national policies for the promotion of decent work";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That, in the Declaration of Mexico of the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor of the OAS, a commitment was made "to promoting and facilitating dialogue in the context of labor relations and at the national, subregional, and hemispheric levels"; and

That the same Declaration recognized the essential and unique advisory role played by workers' organizations in defining labor and employment policies, as well as the necessary role and advisory functions of the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE), at the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor;

BEARING IN MIND that the Inter-American Democratic Charter emphasizes that the promotion and strengthening of democracy requires the full and effective exercise of workers' rights and the application of core labor standards, as recognized in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and its Follow-up, adopted in 1998, as well as other related fundamental ILO conventions; and that democracy is strengthened by improving standards in the workplace and enhancing the quality of life for workers in the Hemisphere; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the “R143 Workers’ Representatives Recommendation, 1971” adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which states that “the term *workers’ representatives* means persons who are recognised as such under national law or practice, whether they are (a) trade union representatives, namely representatives designated or elected by trade unions or by the members of such unions; or (b) elected representatives, namely representatives who are freely elected by the workers of the undertaking in accordance with provisions of national laws or regulations or of collective agreements and whose functions do not include activities which are recognised as the exclusive prerogative of trade unions in the country concerned,”

RESOLVES:

1. To invite the workers’ representatives in each of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), recognized as such by virtue of national law or practice, to hold a dialogue with the ministers of foreign affairs, prior to the inaugural sessions of the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas, so that said representatives may make recommendations and proposals for initiatives related to the theme of the General Assembly or the Summits of the Americas and directed toward the member states and the OAS.

2. To instruct the OAS General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to issue invitations to workers’ representatives in each of the member states and to hold consultations with them regarding the preferred nature and characteristics of such dialogues. In order to hold and organize such dialogues, SEDI will request the support and assistance of the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE).

3. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2316 (XXXVII-O/07)

XV INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF LABOR

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CIDI/RES. 181 (XI-O/06), “Report on the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor”; CEPCIDI/RES. 129 (CXXIX-O/06), “Convocation of the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor”; and CIDI/RES. 202 (XII-O/07), “XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor”; and

Resolution AG/RES. 2205 (XXXVI-O/06), “Report on the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor”;

CONSIDERING:

That the theme of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005, was “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance”; and

That at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government recognized the “vital contributions of Ministries of Labor to the achievement of the objectives of the Fourth Summit of the Americas” and “to the promotion of decent work and policies that encourage investment and economic growth with equity,” and, to this end, they undertook to “continue to promote cooperation among the Ministries of Labor, within the context of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML)”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That at the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, held in Mexico City in September 2005, the participants welcomed the offer of Trinidad and Tobago to host the XV IACML;

That, as part of the follow-up to the XIV IACML, a planning meeting took place in Washington, D.C., in December 2005 among the countries of the “troika,” (Brazil, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago), the coordinators of the working groups of the Conference, representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the advisory bodies of the IACML: the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Business Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL);

That the working groups of the IACML met in April 2006 in Mexico City and in May 2007 in San José, Costa Rica, to continue their follow-up work on the Plan of Action of the XIV IACML and established the scope and content of the reports to be submitted to the XV IACML;

That a technical meeting will be held in Trinidad and Tobago from July 11 to 13, 2007, to prepare for the XV IACML, with a view to reaching agreements on the draft declaration and draft plan of action and to approving the reports of the working groups;

That the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (INLA)—a product of the IACML—has been put in place as a mechanism for strengthening the institutional and human capacities of the labor ministries in the region through horizontal cooperation and technical assistance; and

That the member states have conducted, with support from the General Secretariat, extensive work to follow up on the XIV IACML and to prepare for the XV IACML; and

NOTING that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago offered to host the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor in Port-of-Spain from September 11 to 13, 2007,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept with gratitude the offer by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to host the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) in Port-of-Spain from September 11 to 13, 2007.
2. To call upon the XV IACML to continue to coordinate its priorities within the mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas and to support related follow-up activities.
3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), supporting the process of preparing for and following up on the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor and to report periodically to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on that process.
4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through SEDI, coordination of the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (INLA), which was created by the IACML to strengthen the institutional capacities of the labor ministries of the region.
5. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2317 (XXXVII-O/07)

FIFTH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolutions CEPCIDI/RES. 131 (CXXX-O/07), “Convocation of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI”; CEPCIDI/RES. 133 (CXXX-O/07), “Change of Date for the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI”; and CIDI/RES. 203 (XII-O/07), “Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI”; and

Resolution AG/RES. 2077 (XXXV-O/05), “Strengthening Mechanisms for Policy Dialogue for Integral Development”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that it is the responsibility of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), in the context of the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development 2006–2009, to foster dialogue to promote the development of education as one of its priority areas; and

CONSIDERING:

The final report of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, held in Trinidad and Tobago in August 2005 (CIDI/RME/doc.12/05), which includes the Declaration of Scarborough and Commitments for Action [CIDI/RME/DEC. 5 (IV-O/05)]; and

The final report of the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) (CIDI/CIE/doc.9/06),

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Colombia for its offer to host the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, in Cartagena, Colombia, from November 14 to 16, 2007.

2. To emphasize the importance of continuing ministerial dialogue on education within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to support, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), the work of preparing for and organizing the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI.

4. To take note of the final report of the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) (CIDI/CIE/doc.9/06) and to thank the Committee for its work in support of the mandates entrusted by the Ministers of Education.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to report, through SEDI, to the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI) on the outcome of the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI.

6. To request CIDI to present a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2318 (XXXVII-O/07)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF RECIFE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Permanent Council on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 2190 (XXXVI-O/06), "Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process" (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1);

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 2173 (XXXVI-O/06), "The Declaration of Recife," and the report of the General Secretariat on the implementation of that resolution and the activities of the High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation (RIAD);

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1901 (XXXII-O/02), "Declaration of La Paz on Decentralization and on Strengthening Regional and Municipal Administrations and Participation of Civil Society"; AG/RES. 1993 (XXXIV-O/04), "Mexico City Plan of Action on Decentralization and Strengthening of Municipal and Regional Administrations and Citizen Participation"; and AG/RES. 2173 (XXXVI-O/06), "The Declaration of Recife," adopted, respectively, following the first, second, and third Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere;

BEARING IN MIND that the ministerial meetings on decentralization and the RIAD were established to provide support and institutional follow-up to the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas in Santiago, Chile (1998) and Quebec City (2001), and those undertaken in the Declaration of Nuevo León (2004) and in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina (2005); and

REAFFIRMING the recognition by the Summits of the Americas of the potential of regional and municipal governments to address and help strengthen democratic governance in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To express appreciation for the efforts by the Executive Committee of the High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation (RIAD), composed of Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Mexico, to implement the Declaration of Recife, issued at the third ministerial meeting of the RIAD in October 2005 to strengthen the institutional framework of the decentralization process as well as channels for citizen participation in public administration.

2. To express its firm support for the efforts of the Executive Committee to reinforce the RIAD's Technical and Financial Support Group through the working meetings held in January 2007 in Washington, D.C., with high-level officials of the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank; and to urge those institutions to continue working with the RIAD to carry out joint activities in the area of decentralization and strengthening of local governance.

3. To take note of the signing on June 3, 2006, of a framework agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities, and Associations of Local Governments (FLACMA) for the purpose of fostering ties with decentralization stakeholders, taking into account the importance of coordination and collaboration between the central government and regional and local governments in the joint promotion of more inclusive economic development, capable of consolidating democratic governance.

4. To urge the RIAD to continue implementing its Plan of Action for 2006–2007, intensifying intergovernmental dialogue and dialogue with decentralization stakeholders and reinforcing the RIAD Support Group.

5. To thank the RIAD Technical Secretariat, under the Department of State Modernization and Governance of the Secretariat for Political Affairs, for the technical support provided to the network and the ministerial meetings; and to support efforts to strengthen its operations by fundraising and by including topics pertaining to decentralization and local governance among the areas considered in external fundraising efforts.

6. To urge the RIAD to continue, in coordination with its vice chairs, convening technical meetings to exchange experiences and knowledge of decentralization processes, aimed at seeking solutions to challenges of mutual concern.

7. To renew the mandate to the Permanent Council to convene the next ministerial meeting of the RIAD, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

8. To request the Secretary General to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2319 (XXXVII-O/07)

CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS);

CONSIDERING that in 1908 the cornerstone of the headquarters of the OAS was laid and that in 1910 the premises were inaugurated;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That in 2008 the OAS will celebrate its 60th anniversary, and in 2010, the 120th anniversary of the First International Conference of American States, a milestone in the construction of the inter-American multilateral system; and

That the above-mentioned events provide an opportunity to reaffirm the values, purposes, and principles of the Organization and to promote its renewal to meet the challenges of the present millennium, to consolidate democracy and strengthen democratic governance, peace, and security, and to foster sustainable development;

RECOGNIZING the need to encourage all the member states and peoples of the Americas to participate fully in those celebrations; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the establishment by the Secretary General of a Centennial Celebration Committee, chaired by the Assistant Secretary General,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare, through the Centennial Celebration Committee, a comprehensive plan to celebrate the centennial of the headquarters of the Organization, to raise public awareness of OAS activities and programs, and to promote celebration activities in the member states.

2. To invite the various entities that make up the inter-American system to cooperate with the OAS in the preparations for and implementation of the Centennial Program set out by the Centennial Celebration Committee.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to mobilize, through the Centennial Celebration Committee, the resources necessary to carry out the activities scheduled in that context, derived from a specific fund established to support the centennial programs; and to invite the member states,

permanent observers, and other donors, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards, to contribute to that fund.

4. To request the Permanent Council to provide the necessary support for the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2320 (XXXVII-O/07)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM ON EDUCATION
FOR DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND PRACTICES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolutions AG/RES. 2164 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2119 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2045 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2044 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 1960 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1957 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1907 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1869 (XXXII-O/02), CIDI/RME/RES. 12 (IV-O/05), and CIDI/RME/RES. 10 (III-O/03);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That, in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the member states reaffirm that the education of peoples should be directed toward justice, freedom, and peace, and pledge to give primary importance within their development plans to the encouragement of education oriented toward the integral improvement of the individual, and as a foundation for democracy, social justice, and progress;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes that education is key to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting fulfillment of human potential, alleviating poverty, and fostering better understanding among peoples. To achieve these goals, it is essential that high-quality education be available for everyone, including girls and women, the inhabitants of rural areas, and members of minorities;

That in the Declaration against Violence, adopted at the Second Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, on September 24, 2001, the ministers pledged to emphasize nonviolence and the culture of peace in national and subregional initiatives for training and education in values, and to foster the preparation of a hemispheric program for education in democratic values;

That, in the Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-third regular session, in June 2003, the ministers of foreign affairs of the member states of the OAS declared that “[t]he consolidation of democracy in the region requires a culture based on profound democratic principles and values and on their daily observance. These values should be fostered through education for democracy”; and

That, in the Declaration of Mexico, adopted at the Third Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Mexico City from August 11 to 13, 2003, the ministers recognized “the importance of instilling democratic awareness, culture, and values in the present and future generations, and of the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter,” and urged that “efforts be made to incorporate those principles into our educational programs in accordance with the laws of each country”; and

RECALLING:

That the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices was adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education within the Framework of CIDI, held in Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago, from August 10 to 12, 2005; and

That in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government supported “the recommendations contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education,” and they state that they will strive “for quality public education at all levels and promote literacy to ensure a democratic citizenry, foster decent work, fight poverty, and achieve greater social inclusion,”

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the importance of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices, which will help generate and provide information to strengthen democratic culture through formal and nonformal education, and to develop and strengthen teaching methods in education for democratic values and practices, human rights and peace, and the promotion of horizontal cooperation and the exchange of experiences among the different entities active in this area internationally, regionally, nationally, and locally.

2. To acknowledge the progress made in implementing the Program, including past activities such as the First Meeting of the Advisory Group, in Bogotá, Colombia, in April 2006; the launching, in June 2006, of the Program’s Web page; and the holding of the Inter-American Seminar on Good Practices in Education for Citizens, in Mexico City, Mexico, in July 2006, and of the Inter-American Summit on Conflict Resolution Education, in Cleveland, Ohio, in March 2007. Likewise, to recognize and encourage the continuation of ongoing and planned activities, such as the pilot project “Distance Education Hemispheric Course for Teachers: The Inter-American Democratic Charter as Instrument for Teaching Democratic Values and Principles,” initiated in Peru in 2006; and the beginning of its adaptation for development over the next three years of an Internet civic education course in the English-speaking Caribbean; maintenance of the Program’s Web page; and the design and development of the Inter-American Journal of Education for Democracy, an online publication to be launched in September 2007.

3. To request the General Secretariat to continue, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and the Secretariat for Political Affairs, to support the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and the member states in the ongoing design and implementation of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices, and to report thereon on a regular basis to CIDI and the Permanent Council.

4. To instruct the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) to follow up on implementation of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices; and to instruct CIDI and the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

5. To reaffirm support for the efforts of OAS member states in the area of literacy training, taking into account the close link between these efforts and the Program’s objectives.

6. To thank those member states that have contributed financial, logistical, and human resources for the Program's activities.

7. To invite member states and permanent observers, as well as individuals and national or international organizations, whether public or private, that wish to do so to make voluntary contributions to support the development and implementation of the Program.

8. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly, at its thirty-eighth regular session, on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2321 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROPOSAL TO INCORPORATE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION
INTO FORMAL EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN AGED 10 TO 14,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL OF SAN SALVADOR

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 2066 (XXXV-O/05), in which the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) suggested including human rights content and basic activities in the academic curricula of educational institutions;

CONSIDERING that in the Plan of Action of the First Summit of the Americas, held in Miami in 1994, the Heads of State and Government established that governments should “[d]evelop programs for the promotion and observance of human rights, including educational programs to inform people of their legal rights and their responsibility to respect the rights of others”;

CONSIDERING ALSO that Article 13 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that “[t]he promotion and observance of economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development, equitable economic growth, and to the consolidation of democracy in the states of the Hemisphere”;

BEARING IN MIND that Article 13.2 of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “Protocol of San Salvador,” refers to essential factors to which education in each of the states parties should be directed, one of them being respect for human rights;

APPRECIATING the efforts of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IHR) in producing, uninterruptedly since 2002, five Inter-American Reports on Human Rights Education, which record progress made by the states parties to the Protocol of San Salvador with respect to human rights education;

RECALLING that Article 49 of the OAS Charter provides that “[t]he Member States will exert the greatest efforts, in accordance with their constitutional processes, to ensure the effective exercise of the right to education,” taking into account, *inter alia*, that “[e]lementary education, compulsory for children of school age, shall also be offered to all others who can benefit from it. When provided by the State it shall be without charge”;

CONSIDERING that the right to human rights education from the very first years at school helps strengthen the democratic system, development, security, and progress of the free societies of the Americas;

REAFFIRMING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter regards the promotion and protection of human rights as a prerequisite for the existence of a democratic society; and

APPRECIATING the efforts of the Conference of Ministers of Education on Human Rights Education, recently convened by the Minister of Education of Panama and the IIHR, to strengthen the human rights material incorporated into the member states' formal educational systems,

RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge the progress, actions, and policies gradually being implemented by member states with respect to human rights education for children and young people in academic institutions, as documented by the Inter-American Reports on Human Rights Education.
2. To suggest that member states implement, if, and to the extent that, they have not yet done so, the recommendations contained in the Inter-American Reports on Human Rights Education at different levels in their formal education systems.
3. To suggest to member states that they analyze the contributions of the Curricular and Methodological Proposal of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR) to incorporate human rights education into the official curriculum for children aged 10 to 14, with a view to their adopting it and in accordance with Article 13.2 of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador." Accordingly, to recommend to member states that have not already done so that they adopt, sign, and ratify this instrument.
4. To underscore the work and achievements of the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education on Human Rights Education in the states parties to the Protocol of San Salvador, as it served to exchange experience and to discuss the curricular and methodological developments needed to introduce or strengthen human rights education in each state party's educational system.

AG/RES. 2322 (XXXVII-O/07)

INTER-AMERICAN YEAR OF WOMEN

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

Its previous resolutions on promoting women's human rights and gender equity and equality, fighting violence against women, strengthening the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and the appointment of women to senior management positions at the Organization of American States (OAS), especially resolutions AG/RES. 2192 (XXXVI-O/06), "Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality"; AG/RES. 2162 (XXXVII-O/06), "Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará'"; AG/RES. 2161 (XXXVI-O/06), "Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women"; and AG/RES. 2191 (XXXVI-O/06), "Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the Organization of American States";

The outcome of the four world conferences on women (Mexico City, 1975; Copenhagen, 1980; Nairobi, 1985; and Beijing, 1995) and, especially, the commitments undertaken in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the political declaration and the final report of the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly (June 2000), on the topic "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," and the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly, conducted by the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (forty-ninth session, March 2005);

The gender-related matters included in the Declarations and Plans of Action of the four Summits of the Americas (Miami, 1994; Santiago, 1998; Quebec City, 2001; and Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005), as well as the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 1996) and the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, Mexico, 2004); and

The Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, adopted by way of resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), "Adoption and Implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality";

RECOGNIZING:

Progress thus far in the promotion of women's human rights and gender equality;

The persisting challenges and obstacles to full equality between men and women in all areas of society; and

The pioneering spirit of the inter-American system, especially the CIM, in addressing matters relating to equal opportunity for men and women;

CONSIDERING:

That appreciation of gender issues is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming the structures of inequality; and

The need to continue actively promoting integration of the gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs in the political, economic, and social areas; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The opportunity provided, in 2010, by the 15th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, and the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, to promote broad mobilization in the Americas to evaluate successes and challenges in the defense of women's human rights and gender equity and equality and to strengthen public sensitivity to gender issues; and

The support expressed by the Executive Committee of the CIM (April 19–20, 2007) for the proposal that 2010 be proclaimed the Inter-American Year of Women,

RESOLVES:

1. To proclaim 2010 the Inter-American Year of Women.
2. To request the Permanent Council to form a working group to prepare a program of activities for the Inter-American Year of Women that provides for participation by officials of governments, parliaments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, and identifies sources of funding for those activities.
3. To request the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to support the activities of the working group.
4. To create a specific fund to finance activities related to the Inter-American Year of Women, open to contributions by member states, permanent observers, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and the international community in general.

5. To request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

6. To request the Permanent Council to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2323 (XXXVII-O/07)

STRENGTHENING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND resolution AG/RES. 2161 (XXXVI-O/06), “Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women,” which urged the Secretary General to take measures to support the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and to promote gender equity and equality within the Organization of American States (OAS) and in the Hemisphere;

REITERATING what is expressed in said resolution, namely, that in the past five years the CIM has received additional priority mandates from the OAS member states without the corresponding budgetary appropriations;

CONSIDERING:

That, even though its budget and staff were augmented to some extent in 2007, the CIM’s possibilities of fully complying with all its mandates are very limited;

That resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), which adopted the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), requested the General Secretariat to strengthen the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM by providing it with the necessary human and financial resources, and to help it obtain funds from private sources; and

That resolutions AG/RES. 1451 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1592 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1625 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1777 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2021 (XXXIV-O/04), and AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05) have repeatedly instructed the General Secretariat and the Permanent Council to make every possible effort to allocate technical, human, and financial resources to the CIM so it would be better equipped to perform its essential activities; and

RECALLING:

That the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM was designated as the Technical Secretariat to the Conference of States Parties to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará,” and to the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism to follow up on implementation of said Convention (MESECVI) [AG/RES. 2138 (XXXV-O/05)]; and

That additionally, and in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1741 (XXX-O/00), in 2008 the CIM will coordinate the Third Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM-III),

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate its instruction to the Secretary General to provide the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), in its role as a specialized organization of the Organization of American States (OAS), with adequate human and financial resources to strengthen its ability to carry out its growing mandates, in particular those recognized as priorities by the member states.
2. To urge the Secretary General to include CIM projects and programs among the priorities presented to external donors for funding.
3. To invite member states and permanent observers, as well as individuals and national or international organizations, whether public or private, that wish to do so to make voluntary contributions to support the development and implementation of CIM projects and programs.
4. To renew the mandate to the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), to invite the CIM Executive Secretary to present periodic reports on the financial resources needed to fulfill the Commission's mandates.
5. To request the Secretary General to report, through the Permanent Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2324 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) (CP/doc.4227/07);

RECALLING:

That, through the adoption of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality [AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00)], the governments of the Hemisphere committed to developing decisive strategies to integrate a gender perspective in all spheres of public life as a way of attaining the ultimate goal of promoting and protecting women's human rights and gender equity and equality, and of achieving equality of rights and opportunities between women and men; and

That international forums such as the Summits of the Americas, the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico, and the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 1996) have reiterated the mandate to promote gender equity and equality in all areas; and

CONSIDERING:

The mandate emerging from the aforementioned resolution for the Organization of American States (OAS) to facilitate the integration of a gender perspective into the work of all its organs, agencies, and entities, and to provide support for governments in the systematic compilation and dissemination of statistical data disaggregated by sex; and

Resolutions AG/RES. 1777 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1853 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1941 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2023 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2192 (XXXVI-O/06), which took note of the previous reports of the Secretary General on compliance with the IAP, and the encouraging results of the actions taken in this respect by the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, reflected in said reports,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Secretary General's sixth report on the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP), submitted in fulfillment of resolution AG/RES. 2124 (XXXV-O/05); and to urge him to continue with its implementation.

2. To reaffirm its support for the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policy on gender equity and equality and the promotion of women's human rights; and to continue to support its efforts in the follow-up to and implementation of the IAP, including activities to continue promoting gender mainstreaming in the ministerial meetings on labor, justice, education, and science and technology, and on the issues of leadership, conflict and peacebuilding, and natural disasters, among others, as well as in the follow-up to the mandates of the Summits of the Americas process, in particular the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

3. Once again to request the Permanent Council, in fulfillment of the mandates handed down by this Assembly, by the Summits of the Americas, and by the IAP to:

- a. Continue its efforts to integrate a gender perspective into its resolutions, activities, and initiatives, as the case may be, to ensure that they benefit women and men on an equal and equitable basis, drawing upon the expertise of the CIM; and
- b. Consider increasing the resources allocated to the CIM in the program-budget, enabling it fully to carry out its mandates.

4. To urge the member states to:

- a. Continue their efforts to develop public policies and strengthen institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women and to enforce laws that promote women's human rights and gender equity and equality, including equal opportunity for women and men at all levels; and
- b. Fulfill the mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas through:
 - i. The development of support programs that take into account the different impact of labor and social policies on women and men and that can contribute to eliminating discrimination against women in the workplace and to increasing their full and equal access to decent, dignified, and productive work; and
 - ii. The production and utilization of statistics disaggregated by sex and race, particularly in the labor area, for the development of labor policies based on gender equity and equality.

5. To urge the Secretary General to:

- a. Convene, for 2008, the Third Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States and to take the steps necessary to allocate the funds needed for it to be held;

- b. Continue promoting, with support from the CIM, full implementation of the IAP so as to achieve integration of a gender perspective into all programs and policies of the Organization of American States (OAS);
- c. Continue working with the CIM to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in the development of the programs and actions of all the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization;
- d. Allocate additional human, technical, and financial resources to the CIM to enable it to continue working on implementation of the IAP;
- e. Promote follow-up and support activities in the OAS Gender Training Program, in particular for new staff, and training for trainers;
- f. Reiterate the request to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to include in their annual reports to the General Assembly their initiatives to mainstream the gender perspective into their policies, programs, projects, and activities; and
- g. Report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session, in coordination with the CIM, on the implementation of the Inter-American Program and of this resolution by the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system.

AG/RES. 2325 (XXXVII-O/07)

SPECIAL SECURITY CONCERNS OF THE SMALL ISLAND STATES
OF THE CARIBBEAN

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the section on the matters entrusted to the Committee on Hemispheric Security;

RECALLING that the ministers of foreign affairs and heads of delegation recognized, as stated in the Declaration of Bridgetown, that the security threats, concerns, and other challenges in the hemispheric context are diverse in nature and multidimensional in scope, and that the traditional concept and approach must be expanded to encompass new and nontraditional threats, which include political, economic, social, health, and environmental aspects;

REITERATING that the security of small island states has peculiar characteristics which render these states specially vulnerable and susceptible to risks and threats of a multidimensional and transnational nature, involving political, economic, social, health, environmental, and geographic factors; and that multilateral cooperation is the most effective approach for responding to and managing the threats and concerns of small island states;

AWARE that the small island states remain deeply concerned about the possible threats posed to their economies and maritime environment should a ship transporting potentially hazardous material, including petroleum and radioactive material and toxic waste, have an accident or be the target of a terrorist attack while transiting the Caribbean Sea and other sea-lanes of communication in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING that the Second High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in January 2003, and resolution AG/RES. 1970 (XXXIII-O/03), which endorsed the recommendations of the said Second High-Level Meeting as set out in the Declaration of Kingstown on the Security of Small Island States, both reaffirmed that the political, economic, social, health, and environmental integrity and stability of small island states are integral to the security of the Hemisphere;

MINDFUL of the potentially disastrous impact of acts of terrorism on the stability and security of all states in the Hemisphere, particularly the small and vulnerable island states;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the decisions adopted at the Seventh Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism, with particular reference to threats to tourism security;^{1/}

COMMENDING member states and the General Secretariat for the assistance provided to support member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with the security arrangements for the Cricket World Cup 2007;

UNDERSCORING the importance of sustained dialogue on the multidimensional aspects of security and their impact on the small island states of the Caribbean, in support of ongoing subregional efforts to enhance law enforcement, security cooperation, and disaster mitigation and preparedness;

WELCOMING the convening of the meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, held on February 12, 2007, to address the special security concerns of small island states; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the impetus provided to the Organization in its ongoing commitment to implement a multidimensional approach to security by the presentations delivered *inter alia* on violence prevention, by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); on the impact of climate change, by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre; and on tourism security, by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), as well as the recommendations offered by member states to form the basis of future action;

RECALLING:

Its resolutions AG/RES. 1886 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1970 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2006 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2112 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2187 (XXXVI-O/06), "Special Security Concerns of Small Island States of the Caribbean"; AG/RES. 1497 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1567 (XXVIII-O/98), AG/RES. 1640 (XXIX-O/99), and AG/RES. 1802 (XXXI-O/01), "Special Security Concerns of Small Island States"; and AG/RES. 1410 (XXVI-O/96), "Promotion of Security in the Small Island States";

Its resolutions AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05), "Natural Disaster Reduction and Risk Management," and AG/RES. 2184 (XXXVI-O/06), "Natural Disaster Reduction, Risk Management, and Assistance in Natural and Other Disaster Situations";

That at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City on October 27 and 28, 2003, member states addressed, in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, the multidimensional scope of security and the new threats, concerns, and other challenges and, in paragraph 8 of that Declaration, called for "renewed and ongoing attention to, and the development of

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1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which it considers criminal and unjustifiable, and, for reasons of principle, enters a reservation with respect to adoption of the Declaration of Panama on Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism because it considers that it lacks elements needed for comprehensive treatment of the subject of terrorism. The arguments in support of our position are set forth in document CICTE/DEC. 1/07.

appropriate instruments and strategies within the Inter-American system to address the special security concerns of small island states as reflected in the Declaration of Kingstown on the Security of Small Island States,” and noting also paragraphs 43 and 44 of the Declaration on Security in the Americas;

That in the said Declaration on Security in the Americas member states emphasized the need to reinforce existing efforts in the Hemisphere with regard to transportation security, without prejudice to the flow of trade; and

Its resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXII-E/06), “Statutes of the Inter-American Defense Board,” which mandates the Board in carrying out its purpose, to take into account the needs of the smaller states, whose level of vulnerability is greater in the face of traditional threats and of new threats, concerns, and other challenges;

WELCOMING the actions taken by the General Secretariat through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, such as the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), in the areas of the management of natural-hazard risks, a multi-hazard contingency manual/plan for the tourism sector, and food safety and security standards for the Caribbean; the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) through the online capacity-building program in drug demand reduction at the University of the West Indies and training seminars focused on supply-reduction techniques, and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) through the airport, port facility, and tourism and recreational facilities security programs;

RECOGNIZING the international obligations of member states, particularly obligations of the states parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and relevant instruments of the International Maritime Organization; and

NOTING that at the Fourth Summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), held in Panama City, Panama, in July 2005, the Heads of State and/or Government of the ACS member states urged those countries currently involved in the production or shipment of nuclear waste to adopt measures aimed at strengthening international cooperation in order to comply with security measures on the transportation of radioactive materials, especially those adopted at the forty-seventh regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (Austria 2003),

RESOLVES:

1. To reemphasize the importance of strengthening and enhancing the agenda of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the hemispheric security architecture by addressing the multidimensional nature of security as it relates to the security of the small island states of the Caribbean.

2. To renew its appeal to member states to continue collaborating with the small island states of the Caribbean in the development of effective ways of addressing the security issues of these states.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to remain seized of the issues which impact the security of small island states, and, to this end, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH), to evaluate progress made in addressing the security concerns of those states and the development of strategies for advancing the implementation of the related General Assembly resolutions.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council to continue its work on global climate change, in coordination with the other organs of the OAS.

5. To urge member states to work together on best practices in the area of violence prevention and to share best practices in collaboration with the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence; and to request the General Secretariat to support the expansion of the current body of work in this area through a study on violence prevention in the Caribbean subregion.

6. To request that, in support of the small island states' efforts to address their special security concerns, the CSH coordinate and maintain the necessary liaison with the organs, agencies, entities, and mechanisms of the Organization and other institutions and mechanisms related to the various aspects of security and defense in the Hemisphere, respecting the mandates and areas of competence of each, in order to achieve the application, evaluation, and follow-up of those provisions pertaining to the special security concerns of small island states in the Declaration on Security in the Americas.

7. To reiterate its request that the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, such as the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), support, within their areas of competence and programming, the continued efforts of the small island states to address their security and defense concerns, particularly with respect to:

- a. Developing training programs and proposals for strategic plans and cooperation to enable existing security entities in the small island states to meet the new security threats, concerns, and challenges;
- b. Assisting border control authorities in the small island states in accessing critical information; enhancing their border control systems and transportation security, including airport and seaport security; and strengthening their border-control capacities;
- c. Strengthening the capacity of small island states to fight against illicit trafficking in drugs and firearms;
- d. Carrying out simulation exercises to strengthen the disaster response capacity of these states;

- e. Improving the security of tourism and recreational facilities; and
- f. Improving coordination among the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS on matters related to the special security concerns of small island states, so as to ensure awareness and avoid duplication.

8. To request the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out the measures envisaged in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

9. To instruct the Permanent Council and the Secretary General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2326 (XXXVII-O/07)

MIGRANT POPULATIONS AND MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2248 (XXXVI-O/06), “Migrant Populations and Migration Flows in the Americas”;

RECALLING ALSO the important work of the Organization of American States (OAS) in promoting and protecting the human rights of migrant workers and their families pursuant to, *inter alia*, the following resolutions: AG/RES. 1717 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1775 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1898 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1928 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2027 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2130 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2224 (XXXVI-O/06);

RECALLING FURTHER the adoption, by resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05), of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families;

CONSIDERING the importance of broadening discussion and analysis of human migration, regular and irregular, and migration flows in the Americas and their causes and impact on all member states of the OAS;

RECOGNIZING that migration is also an integral reflection of the processes of integration and globalization, as well as a consequence of the erosion of traditional barriers to the mobilization of populations;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the social and economic significance of migrations in the countries of origin, transit, and reception of migrants;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO that these migration flows will very likely increase as a result of various social, economic, and demographic factors, including subregional integration efforts;

TAKING NOTE of the results of the special meeting of the OAS Permanent Council held on May 2, 2007, to consider, analyze, and discuss human migration flows and their impact on members states, at which a report was received from the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) on the human rights of migrant workers and their families, held in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2248 (XXXVI-O/06), and at which it was recommended that this issue should remain on the agenda of the Permanent Council; and

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the results of the special meeting of the CAJP on implementation of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families, held pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2224 (XXXVI-O/06), on February 13, 2007,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Permanent Council to arrange for the working meetings needed to establish a special committee on migration issues as a specialized committee of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States in order to analyze migration issues and flows from an integral perspective, taking into account the relevant provisions of international law, especially international human rights law, and maintaining for that purpose close contact with the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and the Special Rapporteurship on Migrant Workers and Their Families of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

2. To urge member states to make voluntary contributions to support the activities of the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers and Their Families of the IACHR, and the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families.

3. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2327 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY:
FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CHARTER

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the essential purposes identified therein;

AWARE that the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes in its preamble “that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region” and that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is “[t]o promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention”;

AWARE ALSO that Article 34 of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that “[t]he Member States agree that equality of opportunity, the elimination of extreme poverty, equitable distribution of wealth and income and the full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development”;

REAFFIRMING that the participatory nature of democracy in our countries in different aspects of public life contributes to the consolidation of democratic values and to freedom and solidarity in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that “[e]ssential elements of representative democracy include, *inter alia*, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 2154 (XXXV-O/05), “Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter,” and AG/RES. 2251 (XXXVI-O/06), “Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter on the Occasion of its Fifth Anniversary”;

HAVING SEEN the reports of the Permanent Council on the implementation of resolutions AG/RES. 2044 (XXXIV-O/04) and AG/RES. 2045 (XXXIV-O/04) (CP/doc.4024/05 and CP/CISC-182/05), resolution AG/RES. 2119 (XXXV-O/05), and the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of resolution AG/RES. 1993 (XXXIV-O/04) (CP/CISC-174/05);

AWARE that, in the Declaration of Mexico, the ministers of education of the Hemisphere recognized the importance of raising cultural awareness and promoting democratic values in present and future generations, especially in education as a key means of strengthening democratic institutions;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the member states of the Organization to the full exercise and application in the Hemisphere of the democratic principles and values set forth in the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter reaffirmed that the promotion and protection of human rights is a basic prerequisite for the existence of a democratic society, and recognized the importance of the continuous development and strengthening of the inter-American human rights system for the consolidation of democracy;

RECALLING ALSO that in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government reiterated their “commitment to the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter” and reaffirmed their “resolve to strengthen their full and effective implementation”;

NOTING that the Declaration of Mar del Plata, “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance,” reaffirmed the “commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion in order to raise the standard of living of our peoples and strengthen democratic governance in the Americas”;

CONSIDERING the Declaration of Nuevo León of the Special Summit of the Americas, which reaffirmed the Hemisphere’s commitment to democracy and reiterated the commitment to the full application of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which constitutes an element of regional identity, and, projected internationally, is a hemispheric contribution to the community of nations;

RECALLING that the Declaration on Security in the Americas reaffirmed the commitment of states to full observance of the Inter-American Democratic Charter; to its values, principles, and mechanisms; and to strengthening the inter-American system for the protection of human rights; and recommended that action be taken to promote democratic culture in keeping with the provisions of the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

TAKING NOTE of the presentation to the Permanent Council on April 10, 2007, of the report of the Secretary General on the Inter-American Democratic Charter, pursuant to resolutions AG/RES. 2154 (XXXV-O/05), “Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter,” and AG/RES. 2251 (XXXVI-O/06), “Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter on the Occasion of Its Fifth Anniversary,” as well as the subsequent debate and the comments made on the report by various member states;

BEARING IN MIND the Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas [AG/DEC. 31 (XXXIII-O/03)];

RECALLING that Article 26 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “[t]he OAS will continue to carry out programs and activities designed to promote democratic principles and practices and strengthen a democratic culture in the Hemisphere, bearing in mind that democracy is a way of life based on liberty and enhancement of economic, social, and cultural conditions for the peoples of the Americas. The OAS will consult and cooperate on an ongoing basis with member states and take into account the contributions of civil society organizations working in those fields”;

RECALLING ALSO that the Inter-American Democratic Charter contains a chapter entitled “Democracy and Electoral Observation Missions,” which states that member states, in the exercise of their sovereignty, may request that the Organization provide advisory services or assistance for strengthening and developing their electoral institutions and processes;

REAFFIRMING solidarity and inter-American cooperation as an effective means of promoting and strengthening democratic governance in the respective countries;

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that the strengthening of political parties and other political organizations is a priority for democracy; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2195 (XXXVI-O/06), “Strengthening Political Parties and Other Political Organizations for Democratic Governance,”

RESOLVES:

1. To support member states in their efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, values, practices, and governance, to fight corruption, to enhance the rule of law, to bring about the full exercise of human rights, and to reduce poverty, inequity, and social exclusion.

2. To reaffirm that the promotion and protection of human rights is a prerequisite for a democratic society, and that it is important to continue to develop and strengthen the inter-American human rights system.

3. To recognize the importance of promoting the principles, values, and practices of a democratic culture; and to request the General Secretariat to continue supporting this objective through training programs to promote the principles, values, and practices of a democratic culture, on the basis of Articles 26 and 27 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. In this context, to instruct the Secretariat to continue supporting the Permanent Council and the member states in the execution of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices and its Plan of Action.

4. To recognize the important role of participation by civil society in the consolidation of representative democracy and that this participation constitutes one of the vital elements for the success of development policies; and, in that regard, to instruct the Permanent Council to convene a special meeting with civil society organizations, under the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities, adopted by the Permanent Council in resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), to examine the contribution of these organizations to strengthening a democratic culture in the Hemisphere, pursuant to Article 26 of the Democratic Charter.

5. To reaffirm as applicable the mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 2154 (XXXV-O/05) and in resolution AG/RES. 2251 (XXXVI-O/06), "Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter on the Occasion of Its Fifth Anniversary."

6. To request the Permanent Council to:

- a. Examine the principal challenges to democratic governance, especially those related to strengthening democratic institutions and promoting economic and social development; and
- b. Hold a meeting in the first half of each year to review activities undertaken by the Organization in the preceding calendar year to promote and strengthen democracy.

7. To entrust the General Secretariat with coordinating the activities and programs of the various offices of the General Secretariat relating to the promotion of democracy, in accordance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter, so as to be more effective in fulfilling the mandates on the inter-American agenda.

8. To recommend to the General Secretariat that it support the legislative branches of the member states in their efforts at modernization and institution-building, as well as interparliamentary cooperation and dialogue in the legislative treatment of priority topics on the inter-American agenda.

9. To encourage member states, and to urge all bodies of the inter-American system, to continue to collaborate in eliminating obstacles to women's full participation in democratic processes, pursuant to Article 28 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

10. To request the Secretary General to present a report to the Permanent Council on all cases in which action on his part is envisaged in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

11. To request the Secretariat to prepare a report, for consideration by the Permanent Council, setting forth the best practices developed by the OAS electoral observation missions during the three years prior to the adoption of this resolution.

12. To reaffirm the mandate contained in resolution AG/RES. 2195 (XXXVI-O/06), "Strengthening Political Parties and Other Political Organizations for Democratic Governance."

13. To encourage the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas to continue its efforts, so that its work may serve effectively to strengthen existing OAS instruments on democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty.

14. To ensure that the actions and programs proposed in this resolution will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

15. To request the Secretary General to report to the Permanent Council on the implementation of this resolution.

16. To instruct the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2328 (XXXVII-O/07)

COMMEMORATION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the Sixth International Conference of American States, held on February 7, 1928, approved the establishment of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), with its permanent headquarters in Mexico City;

That on January 12, 1949, the Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the PAIGH signed an agreement to determine the ties between the two bodies, thus making the Institute the oldest specialized organization of the OAS;

That relations between the organizations are now governed by the agreement signed on May 6, 1974, which highlights the Institute's role as an advisory body to the OAS, on the basis of PAIGH's technical autonomy and in keeping with its mandates;

That, since its inception, the PAIGH has made noteworthy contributions to understanding, analyzing, and investigating the geography and history of the Hemisphere as the common heritage of the peoples of the Americas, by means of an array of initiatives, technical assistance projects, training programs, and the applications of training results—accomplishments that reaffirm the direct link between knowledge of the territory, environmental and geophysical conditions, and opportunities for economic and social growth; and

That innovations in information technologies, the mounting volume of data describing territory, and information systems give geography, as a science used to improve the quality of life of people and their biophysical environment, new and significant roles to play in project design, decision-making, science, and technology, all of which points up the importance to the inter-American system of an organization like the PAIGH,

RESOLVES:

1. To declare June 24, 2008, as the day commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH); and to encourage member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to participate actively in its celebration.

2. To that end, to invite the OAS member states and permanent observers to consider making voluntary and special contributions to the OAS, aimed at establishing a specific fund to finance PAIGH projects related to: (i) spatial data production, access, and use to improve disaster response; (ii) consolidation of territorial databases in each country as part of the infrastructure needed

for adequate environmental, social, and economic development; and (iii) America: Contact and Independence, an initiative being prepared concurrently with the commemoration of the bicentennial of the founding of most nations of the Americas.

3. To recommend to member states that, in the course of institution-building and development of related capacities, they strengthen the geographic identity of the respective existing agencies and, in particular, the maintenance and integrity of cartographic databases containing basic data for each country, in keeping with international parameters fostering their use in the formulation of regional projects.

4. To call upon OAS member states that have not yet done so to consider establishing formal ties with the PAIGH, in order to further its development and its contribution to the inter-American system as a whole.

AG/RES. 2329 (XXXVII-O/07)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OLIVER JACKMAN VOLUNTARY CAPITAL FUND
TO FINANCE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Its resolution AG/RES. 2075 (XXXV-O/05), and its resolution AG/RES. 2220 (XXXVI-O/06), “Strengthening of Human Rights Systems pursuant to the Mandates Arising from the Fourth Summit of the Americas”; and

Its resolutions AG/RES. 2128 (XXXV-O/05) and AG/RES. 2227 (XXXVI-O/06), “Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights,” and AG/RES. 1918 (XXXIII-O/03 and AG/RES. 2223 (XXXVI-O/06), “Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights”;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes that one of the principles of the Organization is respect for the fundamental rights of the individual without any distinctions; and

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that the member states reaffirm their intention to strengthen the inter-American system for the protection of human rights for the consolidation of democracy in the Hemisphere;

RECALLING:

That, at the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere mandated the General Assembly of the OAS at its thirty-first regular session “to consider an adequate increase in resources for the activities of the Commission and the Court in order to improve human rights mechanisms and to promote the observance of the recommendations of the Commission and compliance with the judgments of the Court”; and pledged to continue promoting concrete measures to strengthen and improve the inter-American human rights system, in particular the functioning of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), focusing, *inter alia*, on substantially increasing resources to maintain ongoing operations, including the encouragement of voluntary contributions, examining the possibility that the Court and the IACHR will function permanently; and

CONSIDERING:

That the inter-American human rights system has been recognized universally for its work to develop jurisprudence for the protection of human rights, for its efficacy in promoting and protecting human rights in the Hemisphere, and for its contribution to strengthening national human rights systems;

That in order to strengthen human rights in the region it is especially important to universalize the inter-American human rights system and to fully enlist all states of the Hemisphere in the system;

That the system's achievements in the promotion of human rights have prompted a significant increase in users and that, therefore, its ability to respond can be jeopardized if its funding is not adjusted to its needs;

That it is necessary to seek substantive answers that will ensure the proper functioning and sustainability of the system; and

That Oliver Jackman, a national of Barbados, was a judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights from 1994 to 2005, a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights from 1986 to 1993, a renowned jurist and journalist with a distinguished record in international human rights law, and thus an outstanding example of the possibility of developing a system of law based on diversity; and that, therefore, his memory deserves to be honored,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Secretary General to establish, once the Rules of Procedure have been adopted by the Permanent Council, a specific fund for voluntary contributions, to be called the "Oliver Jackman Voluntary Capital Fund," hereinafter the "Oliver Jackman Fund."

2. To agree that:

- a. The purpose of the Oliver Jackman Fund shall be to finance, with income produced by capital contributions, the operations of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;
- b. The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) shall be responsible for financial administration of the Oliver Jackman Fund. Financing shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure, to be adopted by the Permanent Council prior to January 31, 2008, which must establish clear accountability procedures. The determination of which expenditures are financed using the Fund's resources shall be decided autonomously by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;

- c. The Oliver Jackman Fund shall administer capital contributions received from member states, permanent observers, and other donors who wish to collaborate in strengthening the inter-American human rights system; and
- d. The Oliver Jackman Fund shall have two separate accounts, named (i) the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and (ii) the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Capital contributions made in support of each of the organs in the system shall be deposited in that body's account.

3. To invite member states, permanent observers, and other donors, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, and other rules and regulations of the Organization, to contribute to the Oliver Jackman Fund, as an effective demonstration of the commitment to protecting human rights in the Hemisphere.

4. To urge international financial agencies to contribute to the Oliver Jackman Fund as a demonstration of their commitment to democracy, development, and human rights in the Hemisphere.

5. To recall that the operation of the Oliver Jackman Fund does not exonerate the OAS from its obligation to guarantee funding of the inter-American human rights system with Regular Fund resources.

6. To specify that contributions to the Oliver Jackman Fund do not preclude other voluntary contributions, nor do they preclude the formation of other specific funds to finance the operations of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights or programs of these bodies.

7. To request the General Secretariat to present an annual report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at each regular session.

AG/RES. 2330 (XXXVII-O/07)

MECHANISM TO FOLLOW UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, “CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ”

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN resolution AG/RES. 2162 (XXXVI-O/06), “Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, ‘Convention of Belém do Pará’” (MESECVI), in which the General Assembly took note of the report of the Permanent Council on implementation of the follow-up mechanism;

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention of Belém do Pará, adopted in 1994, is the only specific, binding international legal instrument on gender-based violence and has become an important framework in which the states parties thereto undertake to implement policies, laws, and national and regional action programs to eradicate violence against women;

That 32 member states have ratified the Convention of Belém do Pará;

That, despite the efforts of countries in the region, violence against women continues to be an area of special concern; and that the Convention has not been fully implemented;

That, consequently, in 2004, the Conference of States Parties adopted the Statute of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará” (MESECVI), as a means of assessing progress and trends in the fulfillment of the objectives of the Convention and facilitating cooperation among the states parties and with the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS);

That the human and financial resources available to the technical secretariat of the MESECVI are not sufficient to ensure the Mechanism’s optimal functioning; and

The useful financial contributions made by the Governments of Mexico and Brazil upon start-up of the MESECVI’s operations; and

RECALLING:

That to date the time frames and measures agreed upon by the states parties and the Committee of Experts on Violence (CEVI) for implementation of the first multilateral evaluation round of the MESECVI have encountered delays and that they must be complied with in the future to ensure the Mechanism's proper functioning;

That the hemispheric report on the first multilateral evaluation round of the MESECVI will be presented to the Second Conference of States Parties, to be held in late 2007; and

That the OAS General Secretariat, through the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM, serves as the secretariat to the organs of the MESECVI, with advice, where appropriate, from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), as well as from other areas of the General Secretariat,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the report of the Permanent Council on the activities of the Mechanism to Follow Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará" (MESECVI).

2. To encourage the states parties to the Convention to meet the deadlines established in the annual work calendar of the Committee of Experts on Violence (CEVI) to ensure the MESECVI's optimal functioning.

3. To welcome the progress of the first multilateral evaluation round of the MESECVI; and to express its conviction that this exercise will contribute significantly to achievement of the objectives set forth in the Convention.

4. To congratulate the states parties on their efforts to meet the objectives of the Convention; and again to urge those states that have not yet done so to designate their experts and competent national authorities, so as to ensure the full implementation and success of the Mechanism.

5. To urge the states parties to the Convention as well as all member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to strengthen the MESECVI and hemispheric cooperation to combat violence against women, including the participation of experts in CEVI meetings.

6. To reiterate its gratitude to the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for its support of the states parties in the process of implementation of the MESECVI; and to thank it for its important role, as secretariat of the Mechanism, in the fulfillment of the objectives of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

7. To thank the Government of Mexico for its continuing contribution to the Mechanism, in both human and financial resources; and to invite all states parties and states not party to the Convention, permanent observers, international financial institutions, and civil society

organizations to contribute to the Specific Fund established in the OAS to finance MESECVI's operations.

8. To take note of the offer by the Argentine Republic to host the Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Violence (CEVI), to be held in late June in Buenos Aires.

9. To request the Secretary General to allocate more human, technical, and financial resources to enable the CIM to continue supporting the implementation of the MESECVI and the full application of the Convention of Belém do Pará by the states parties, as well as other initiatives by the member states to eliminate violence against women.

10. To take note of the offer by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the Second Conference of States Parties to the Convention of Belém do Pará, to be held in late 2007.

11. To request the Permanent Council to follow up on implementation of this resolution and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on MESECVI operations and on the outcome of the first multilateral evaluation round.

AG/RES. 2331 (XXXVII-O/07)

FIFTH BIENNIAL REPORT ON FULFILLMENT OF RESOLUTION
AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "PROMOTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION
ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT, AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN, 'CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ'"

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND:

That the preamble to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," adopted in 1994, affirms that violence against women constitutes a violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the elimination of violence against women is essential for their individual and social development and their full and equal participation in all walks of life;

That 32 member states have ratified the Convention Belém do Pará;

That, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97), "Promotion of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, 'Convention of Belém do Pará,'" the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) has so far submitted to the General Assembly five biennial reports on progress made in the implementation of the Convention, as well as on experiences and results achieved through the initiatives and programs pursued in the member states to combat violence against women; and

That the national reports prepared by the states parties to the CIM pursuant to Article 10 of the Convention are an important contribution to measures adopted to prevent and eradicate violence against women and to assist women affected by violence, as well as any difficulties observed in applying the Convention and any factors that contribute to violence against women; and

UNDERSCORING that these reports indicate that, despite efforts to implement the objectives of the Convention of Belém do Pará, violence persists and is of such magnitude that it is imperative to continue to implement, on an ongoing basis, strategies allowing women to live free from violence,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the Fifth Biennial Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on fulfillment of resolution AG/RES. 1456 (XXVII-O/97).

2. To congratulate the member states for their efforts to effectively meet the objectives of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará," in keeping with the priorities set in the Plans of

Action of the Summits of the Americas, the Strategic Plan of Action of the CIM, and the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality.

3. To encourage those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the Convention of Belém do Pará.

4. To urge member states to allocate more human and financial resources in their national and regional budgets to help victims of violence and to prevent, punish, and eradicate all forms of violence against women.

5. To urge regional and international cooperation and development assistance agencies to make financial and/or human resource contributions to the Permanent Secretariat of the CIM.

6. To urge the Secretary General to respond to the need to allocate more human and financial resources to enable the CIM to continue supporting the efforts of the member states regarding implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

AG/RES. 2332 (XXXVII-O/07)

THE IMPORTANCE OF NUTRITION FOR ACHIEVING HEALTHIER POPULATIONS
AND INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND that proper nutrition helps reduce poverty, and that it is a major determinant of the overall well-being of the population;

CONSIDERING that paragraph 4 of the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas refers to the search for sustained, long-term, and equitable economic growth that creates jobs, reduces poverty, eliminates hunger, and raises the standard of living, including for the most vulnerable sectors and social groups, and that, pursuant to paragraph 13, which refers to the recognition that the reduction of inequality and the elimination of poverty cannot be achieved solely through welfare-oriented social policies, the states committed to undertaking comprehensive government policies that institutionalize the fight against poverty;

RECALLING:

That, likewise, Article 34.j of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) lists proper nutrition as a basic objective of integral development, to be achieved especially through the acceleration of national efforts to increase the production and availability of food;

That reducing hunger and malnutrition, and the eradication of poverty were expressly included in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the Millennium Development Goals established as a result of it;

The commitments with respect to health made in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), in keeping with those established at the Miami and Santiago Summits of the Americas and in accordance with agreed-upon international development goals in the area of maternal and child health, which stipulate that the technical cooperation of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other relevant international organizations should continue to support health actions in the Hemisphere, in a manner consistent with the Shared Agenda for Health in the Americas, signed by PAHO, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the World Bank; and

That in Article 12 of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador," the states parties recognized that "[e]veryone has the right to adequate nutrition which guarantees the possibility of enjoying the highest level of physical, emotional and intellectual development";

BEARING IN MIND that nutrition is a development-related issue, that nutrition projects yield some of the highest returns on investment in development, and that malnutrition as a result of both lack of food and excess food is closely tied in with social and economic inequalities; and also that malnutrition and obesity and the chronic noncommunicable diseases associated with it are increasing sharply in the region and predominantly affect the poor, thereby creating a dual burden due to the coexistence of problems associated with a lack, or an excess, of macro- and micronutrients;

NOTING such initiatives and debates as the Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty and the adoption by the health ministers of the region of resolution CD47.R8 of the 47th Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization, "Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Nutrition in Health and Development, 2006-2015," which recommends actions designed to improve nutritional status throughout life, especially among the poor and other vulnerable groups, through joint strategic efforts by states and other partners; and

CONVINCED of the need for closer ties and coordination among the Summits of the Americas process and the institutions associated with it, and of the need to examine the desirability of establishing new relations with subregional multilateral development banks and of promoting greater involvement and partnerships with subregional foundations and civil society groups,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the will of the member states, expressed in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005), to strengthen cooperation in the struggle against chronic, emerging, and re-emerging diseases, as well as in the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017, to strengthen, within national health systems, primary health care actions as a step to prevent diseases, their causes—such as malnutrition—and their consequences, and to reduce morbidity.
2. To urge member states to join forces to reduce rates of malnutrition and poor nutrition due to deficit or excess intake of food.
3. To support the Pan American Health Organization's implementation of the Regional Strategy on Nutrition in Health and Development; and to invite it to embark on a consultation process with the Organization of American States with a view to assessing the outlook for the implementation and dissemination in the Americas of a joint program aimed at reducing the high incidence of malnutrition and of poor nutrition due to overeating.

AG/RES. 2333 (XXXVII-O/07)

SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION AT THE HEMISPHERIC LEVEL OF
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING the commitment set forth in resolution AG/RES. 2107 (XXXV-O/05), in which member states were urged to fulfill their obligations under United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to take and enforce without delay effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, and in which states in a position to do so were encouraged to offer assistance in response to specific requests;

REAFFIRMING the rules and principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), among other instruments;

BEARING IN MIND United Nations Security Council resolution 1673 (2006) and the report of the committee established under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (the 1540 Committee), of April 2006, in which, *inter alia*, states were invited to provide information on efforts under way to implement resolution 1540 (2004), including planning for measures still pending, in order to achieve full implementation of that resolution;

RECOGNIZING the comprehensive exchange of views that took place at the special meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security dedicated to combating the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, their delivery systems, and related materials, which was held on December 11, 2006, in compliance with a mandate issued in resolution AG/RES. 2246 (XXXVI-O/06);

REAFFIRMING member states' commitment to arms control, disarmament, and the nonproliferation of all weapons of mass destruction, and to the principles and norms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention), and the 1925 Geneva Protocol to the 1907 Hague Convention;

RECOGNIZING the importance of calling upon member states to work jointly to achieve nonproliferation and disarmament objectives leading to the elimination of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, so that they do not fall into the hands of non-state actors, and as a guarantee of stronger international peace and security;

REAFFIRMING the necessity that all member states fulfill their obligations with respect to arms control and disarmament and avoid all forms of proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction;

NOTING that particularly noteworthy among the conclusions and recommendations stemming from that special meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security was the role regional organizations like the OAS could play in promoting the discussion of experiences, disseminating best practices, and helping the states to present more and better reports in compliance with resolution 1540 (2004);

RECALLING that the statement by the President of the United Nations Security Council on February 23, 2007, says that Council is mindful of the need to further explore, with international, regional, and subregional organizations, the possibility of sharing experience and lessons learned in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004), and the availability of programs to facilitate implementation of that resolution;

STRESSING the usefulness of promoting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by way of regional seminars, such as those held in Guatemala City in July 2005, in Buenos Aires in September 2005, and in Lima in November 2006; and taking note of the offer by Jamaica to hold a subregional seminar in 2007;

RECALLING the workshop on nonproliferation controls, held at United Nations headquarters in New York on March 27, 2007, organized by Norway and cosponsored by Germany and Chile, aimed at addressing the subject of international assistance in the implementation of resolution 1540. This event constituted a new effort by the countries committed to nonproliferation to monitor and promote full compliance with the mandates contained in the aforementioned United Nations Security Council resolution; and

REAFFIRMING the full cooperation of the member states with the 1540 Committee, as recommended in resolution 1673 (2006),

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm that, pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) of the United Nations Security Council, all states shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery; and that none of the obligations set forth in said resolution shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of states parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention), and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention), or alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

2. To urge member states to provide additional information to the 1540 Committee on efforts under way to implement resolution 1540 (2004), including road maps or action plans, as recommended by the 1540 Committee's report of April 2006.

3. To hold a regional workshop in early 2008 on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in order to examine reporting by the member states to the 1540 Committee and other ways in which states of the Hemisphere might contribute, from a subregional perspective, to the implementation of that resolution.

4. To keep this topic on the agenda of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and to foster increased information-sharing, including with other international, regional, and subregional organizations, on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), thus contributing to the efforts of the United Nations.

5. To request the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security to support the member states in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by holding periodic informal meetings for, *inter alia*, discussing lessons learned and experience gained, identifying specific areas and projects in which assistance is needed, and setting priorities from a hemispheric perspective.

6. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

7. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2334 (XXXVII-O/07)

EXECUTION OF THE HEMISPHERIC PLAN OF ACTION
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONCERNED that the security of the states of the Hemisphere is affected, in various ways, by traditional threats and by new threats, concerns, and other challenges of diverse types, such as transnational organized crime, as well as by the growing complexity and diversity of the activities of organized criminal groups;

RECALLING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City in October 2003, the member states condemned transnational organized crime, since it constitutes an assault on institutions in our countries and negatively affects our societies, and renewed the commitment to fighting it by strengthening the domestic legal framework, the rule of law, and multilateral cooperation, respectful of the sovereignty of each state;

REITERATING that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and the three additional protocols thereto—the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition—constitute the legal framework of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime;

BEARING IN MIND:

Resolution CP/RES. 908 (1567/06), “Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime,” whereby the Permanent Council adopted said Plan of Action, on October 25, 2006;

The report of the Chair of the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime (CE/DOT-56/06), which highlights the efforts carried out to draw up the Hemispheric Plan of Action;

Resolution AG/RES. 2189 (XXXVI-O/06), which authorized the Permanent Council to adopt the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime once the work of the Special Committee had been completed;

The conclusions and recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI), held in the Dominican Republic in April 2006;

The conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting of Government Experts to Consider the Advisability of Developing a Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, held on April 18 and 19, 2005, in Washington, D.C., which established, among other things, that it would be advisable to develop such a plan of action;

Resolution AG/RES. 2116 (XXXV-O/05), "Fighting Transnational Organized Crime in the Hemisphere," which established the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime (CEDOT), under the auspices of the Permanent Council, as a mechanism for preparing a draft hemispheric plan of action against transnational organized crime, taking as a point of reference the Palermo Convention and the protocols thereto;

The establishment, by Executive Order 05-13 Rev. 1, of the Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security, which is responsible for coordinating, *inter alia*, the efforts of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in areas related to the prevention of and the fight against transnational organized crime; and

Resolution AG/RES. 2026 (XXXIV-O/04), "Fighting Transnational Organized Crime in the Hemisphere," which laid the foundations for addressing the topic in the Organization;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the offer by the Government of Mexico to host the first meeting of the Technical Group on Transnational Organized Crime, which was proposed in the Hemispheric Plan of Action and will consider matters related to its implementation; and

RECOGNIZING that it is important that member states improve and strengthen measures designed to eradicate poverty, inequity, and social exclusion, which in some circumstances make vulnerable groups more likely to become victims of the actions of transnational organized crime,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the adoption of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, the principal purpose of which is to promote application by member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and the protocols thereto.

2. To exhort those member states that have not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying, as the case may be, and to implement as soon as possible the Palermo Convention and the three protocols thereto.^{1/}

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1. The delegation of Colombia wishes to make the following declaration on operative paragraph 2 of the resolution "Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime."
Colombia has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Additional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and is fully committed to their application.
However, Colombia has stated that it will not ratify the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, or the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
Colombia does not agree with the text of Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition,

3. To invite member states that have not yet done so to designate as soon as possible a national point of contact to coordinate and facilitate follow-up to this Hemispheric Plan of Action at the domestic level, pursuant to Section III, paragraph 3, of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime. With this information, the General Secretariat will prepare a directory and distribute it to the member states.

4. To request the General Secretariat to collaborate in developing work plan of the Technical Group on Transnational Organized Crime, to be evaluated and approved by the Permanent Council.

5. To encourage the member states to continue to play an active part in the fight against transnational organized crime in its diverse manifestations and to adopt the necessary measures for implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime in their respective countries, and to contribute to the OAS with financial resources or in kind, in order to achieve the objectives established in the Plan of Action.

6. To urge member states to participate in the First Meeting of the Technical Group on Transnational Organized Crime, to be held in Mexico City on July 26 and 27, 2007.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council to prepare and consider, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security and in consultation with the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, the agenda and schedule for the First Meeting of the Technical Group on Transnational Organized Crime.

concerning its scope of application. Colombia would have preferred that the Protocol apply to all transfers of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition, in order to make a real contribution to preventing and combating illicit trafficking therein, and in order that transfers between states, like all other transfers, be subject to the control mechanisms set out in the Protocol.

The definition of "illicit trafficking" contained in Article 3, section (e), of the Protocol must be borne in mind: it states that, for a transfer to be licit, the authorization of all states parties involved in it is required. An escape clause, such as that appearing in Article 4, runs counter to that definition inasmuch as it implies that a state may transfer arms without the authorization or consent of one of the other states concerned. This would not only make such a transfer illicit but also open up the possibility for arms to be transferred to non-state actors.

Colombia, a country that has been seriously affected by the illicit trafficking in arms, cannot accept that certain arms transfers, such as transfers to non-state actors—which in our view constitute a grave crime—and transfers between states be excluded from the Protocol's control measures, and therefore, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, took the sovereign decision not to ratify this Protocol.

With reference to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Colombia has stated that it will not ratify this instrument inasmuch as it considers that it contains provisions designed to legitimize the forced repatriation of migrants who have not necessarily been smuggled. That approach was promoted during the negotiation of the Protocol by the destination countries, none of which has ratified the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Colombia believes that the clause contained in Article 6, paragraph 4, could lead to the criminalization of migrants, whereas the purpose of the Protocol is to pursue criminal groups, not migrants.

Pursuant to the above, and in compliance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, Colombia took the sovereign decision not to ratify the Protocol.

8. To instruct the Permanent Council to present a report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

9. To instruct the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat to carry out, as appropriate, the activities mentioned in this resolution, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, such as voluntary contributions.

AG/RES. 2335 (XXXVII-O/07)

APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS
AT THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1627 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1790 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1872 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1954 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1977 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2096 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2191 (XXXVI-O/06), “Appointment of Women to Senior Management Positions at the OAS,” in which it urged the Secretary General to establish as an objective that, by the year 2005, women should occupy 50 percent of posts in all categories of the system of the Organization of American States (OAS);

BEARING IN MIND Article 137 of the OAS Charter, which states that the Organization does not allow any restriction based on race, creed, or sex with respect to eligibility to hold positions in the Organization and to participate in its activities; and Article 120 of the Charter and Article 37 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, which stipulate that first consideration shall be given to efficiency, competence, and integrity in the recruitment of General Secretariat personnel, but that importance shall also be attached to the criterion of the widest possible geographic distribution in hiring personnel at all grade levels;

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, which was adopted by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00), calls for the OAS General Secretariat to “implement measures to ensure full and equal access by men and women to all categories of posts in the OAS system, particularly in decision-making positions”;

REAFFIRMING the commitment expressed at the highest levels in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001) to promote gender equity and equality and women’s human rights by strengthening and fostering women’s full and equal participation in decision-making at all grade levels, women’s empowerment, and their equal opportunity to exercise leadership;

REAFFIRMING ALSO that the Declaration of Nuevo León recognized that “the empowerment of women, their full and equal participation in the development of our societies, and their equal opportunities to exercise leadership are fundamental for the reduction of poverty, the promotion of economic and social prosperity, and for people-centered sustainable development”;

RECALLING that in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) the member states committed “to eliminate discrimination against women at work through, among other measures, the implementation of a range of policies that will increase women’s access to decent, dignified, and productive work, including policies addressing training and education and protection of the rights of women, as well as proactive policies to ensure that men and women enjoy equality in the workplace”;

ACKNOWLEDGING that ensuring equal opportunity for women—taking their diversity into account—in leadership and decision-making positions is only one important element of a continuum of actions, policies, and activities required to achieve gender equality in the workplace and improve gender mainstreaming throughout the OAS;

EMPHASIZING the importance of the need to effectively integrate gender-balance considerations throughout the human resource management policies of the OAS;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the advances made in meeting the goal of having women occupy 50 percent of posts at all levels, especially at those grade levels where the goal has been met or exceeded; and

AWARE that, despite this progress, the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in senior management positions has not been met,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the Secretary General to:
 - a. Enable the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to effectively contribute to and facilitate the integration of the principle of gender equity and equality in human resource action plans;
 - b. Develop, establish, and apply a human resource policy based on the principle of gender equity and equality;
 - c. Redouble his efforts to achieve, as a matter of priority, the goal of having women, including indigenous women, occupy 50 percent of posts at each grade level within the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization of American States (OAS), particularly at the P-5 grade level and above, bearing in mind the application of the criterion of geographic distribution in professional positions;
 - d. Continue his work to establish policies of gender equality in the workplace and to make each manager accountable for the application of these policies; and
 - e. Appoint women as representatives and special envoys to represent the Secretary General in matters relating to all areas and sectors, and as heads of electoral observation missions.
2. To urge all member states to support the efforts of the Secretary General by identifying and submitting the candidacies of women to occupy positions of trust within the OAS, and to encourage more women to apply for vacant positions, which will have been widely publicized in all member states.

3. To call on the organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS to:

- a. Redouble efforts to meet the goal of having women occupy 50 percent of posts at each grade level, particularly at the P-5 grade level and above, and to continue to accelerate their recruitment of women for vacant positions;
- b. Include the objective of having women occupy 50 percent of posts at each grade level, particularly at the P-5 grade level and above, in their human resource management action plans; and
- c. Encourage specific activities to address gender issues in the workplace, according to the individual circumstances of departments and offices, as one of the follow-up actions concerning the gender mainstreaming project undertaken by the General Secretariat of the OAS.

4. To request the Secretary General to monitor closely the progress made by the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization in meeting the goal of having women occupy 50 percent of posts at all grade levels, to keep the Permanent Council informed with respect to the implementation of this resolution, providing an annual update with relevant statistics from the Department of Human Resources and detailed information on the strategies and actions taken to implement this resolution and reach that goal, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2336 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROMOTION OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT its resolution AG/RES. 2194 (XXXVI-O/06), “Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere”;

RECALLING its previous resolutions on the promotion of corporate social responsibility in the Hemisphere: AG/RES. 2123 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2013 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 1953 (XXXIII-O/03), and AG/RES. 1871 (XXXII-O/02); and

BEARING IN MIND the commitment made by the Heads of State and Government in the Declaration of Mar del Plata, recognizing that “[s]ustained economic growth, with equity and social inclusion, is an indispensable condition to create jobs, fight extreme poverty, and overcome inequality in the Hemisphere. To achieve these ends, it is necessary to improve transparency and the investment climate in our countries, build human capital, encourage increased incomes and improve their distribution, promote corporate social responsibility, and foster a spirit of entrepreneurship as well as strong business activity,”

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction with the IV Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility: “Good Business for All,” held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, from December 10 to 12, 2006; and to take note of the results of said Conference, in which international experts in various aspects of corporate social responsibility (CSR) participated, along with private sector representatives, government officials, civil society organizations, and academics, creating an important platform for dialogue and the exchange of experiences to advance the promotion of CSR policies.

2. To urge member state governments to promote corporate social responsibility programs and initiatives and to become more knowledgeable about existing internationally recognized voluntary principles and guidelines, as well as private-sector initiatives in this area, and, as appropriate to their circumstances, to support such principles and initiatives.

3. Also to urge member states to promote the use of applicable corporate social responsibility guidelines, tools, and best practices, including the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

4. To instruct the Secretary General to work through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to join the efforts of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and other international

organizations that contribute to information exchange and capacity-building, to enable member states to be in a position to promote CSR in their own private sector communities.

5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2337 (XXXVII-O/07)

MODERNIZATION AND USE OF ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes in its preamble that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region, and that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;

GUIDED by the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which includes, among the essential elements of representative democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power subject to the rule of law, and the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on universal suffrage and secret balloting as an expression of the sovereignty of the people;

RECALLING that, in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government of the democratic countries of the Hemisphere stated that they would “[c]ontinue to enhance electoral mechanisms, using information and communications technologies where possible, to effectively guarantee the impartiality, promptness and independent action of agencies, tribunals or other bodies responsible for the conduct, supervision and verification of elections at national and sub-national levels”;

NOTING the establishment of the Secretariat for Political Affairs of the OAS General Secretariat and its contribution to the implementation of mandates concerning electoral affairs arising from both the Summits of the Americas and the Organization;

CONSIDERING the reports of the various electoral observation and technical assistance missions, in particular their diverse recommendations on the need to improve electoral processes, which constitutes an important contribution to strengthening democratic institutional systems;

UNDERSCORING the advisability of reinforcing, for these purposes, hemispheric cooperation and the exchange of experiences in the area of electoral technologies and related legislation, with support from the OAS;

HIGHLIGHTING the dialogue of heads of delegation during the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly on the topic “Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-Based Society”; and

NOTING the conclusions of the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, on September 12 and 13, 2006, among them, that “reliable election results require not only transparent mechanisms but also a culture of democratic citizenship that has confidence in electoral bodies as arbiters of the election,”

RESOLVES:

1. To underscore the efforts made by the election officials in the member states to organize and administer elections, for the purpose of increasing the quality and transparency of their electoral processes, including the incorporation of new electoral technologies.

2. To underscore the decisive contribution by the Organization of American States (OAS), through electoral observation missions, advice, and assistance, to the holding of elections and the strengthening and development of electoral institutions and processes in the member states.

3. To urge the General Secretariat to support member states that so request, in such a way as to enable their electoral bodies to join together in a horizontal cooperation effort to adopt new electoral technologies under the auspices of the OAS, within the resources available.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Secretariat for Political Affairs, to do more to foster the generation of horizontal cooperation mechanisms for organizing electoral processes, including the adoption of new technologies, in order to assist member states that request such assistance.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat to assist member states that so request with training human resources in international electoral observation.

6. To underscore the advisability of promoting, for these purposes, cooperation and exchange of experiences in the areas of electoral legislation and technology, with other international and regional organizations.

7. To call upon member states, permanent observers, and other donors to make voluntary contributions to the activities proposed to implement and follow up on this resolution.

8. To instruct the General Secretariat to include in its activity reports on the promotion of democracy the progress made in carrying out this mandate.

9. To thank the Government of El Salvador for holding the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities. To request the Permanent Council to convene an Inter-American Meeting of Experts and Representatives of Electoral Bodies, to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, during the last quarter of 2007, for the purpose of exchanging experiences and best practices in the countries of the Hemisphere on, among other things, voter identification systems, voter registration procedures, and automated election systems, and whose conclusions will be submitted to the Fifth Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Authorities.

10. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2338 (XXXVII-O/07)

SUPPORT FOR AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1) as it pertains to the activities of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities;

HAVING SEEN ALSO resolutions AG/RES. 2171 (XXXVI-O/06), "Follow-up and Implementation of the Mandates of the Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas," and AG/RES. 2190 (XXXVI-O/06), "Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Declarations and Plans of Action adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994), the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 1996), the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998), the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001), the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, Mexico, 2004), and the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005);

RECALLING that, through resolution AG/RES. 1349 (XXV-O/95), the General Assembly established a special committee of the Permanent Council on inter-American summits management, and that, at its meeting of July 31, 2002, the Permanent Council decided to merge it with the Committee on Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities, thereby creating the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), in order to ensure effective, timely, and appropriate follow-up of the activities assigned to the Organization of American States (OAS) by the Summit of the Americas and to coordinate the Organization's preparation, participation, and follow-up with regard to future Summits;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the acknowledgement at the Third Summit of the function that the CISC fulfills in coordinating the efforts of the OAS in supporting the Summits of the Americas process and in serving as a forum for civil society to contribute to that process; as well as the establishment of the Summits Secretariat;

RECALLING that at Summits of the Americas the Heads of State and Government recognized the important role played by the OAS in the implementation of decisions of the Summits of the Americas and that the Fourth Summit, in particular, recognized the pivotal role that the OAS plays in the implementation and follow-up of Summit mandates and instructed the General Secretariat to continue to act as technical secretariat; provide support for meetings of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), ministerial meetings, and specialized conferences; coordinate the participation of civil society; and ensure the dissemination of information on the Summits process and the commitments adopted by the countries;

RECALLING ALSO that at the Fourth Summit the Heads of State and Government instructed members of the Joint Summit Working Group, comprising the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), under the coordination of the OAS, to continue, through their respective activities and programs, to support the follow-up and implementation of the Declarations and Plans of Actions of the Summits of the Americas, as well as to assist in the preparations for future Summits; and

NOTING that at the XLVI Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group, held on September 12, 2006, at OAS headquarters, the Argentine Republic officially transferred the chairmanship of the Summits of the Americas process to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the host country of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, to be held in 2009,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to continue to implement the commitments of the Summits of the Americas and to promote and disseminate them within their respective national administrations.
2. To renew the mandate to the Permanent Council to coordinate the activities assigned to the Organization of American States (OAS) by the Summits of the Americas.
3. To instruct the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization to continue to give the highest priority to carrying out the initiatives assigned to them by the General Assembly, in accordance with the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, and to report regularly on these activities, as appropriate, to the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC).
4. To request that the General Secretariat, through the Summits Secretariat, continue to serve as the institutional memory and technical secretariat of the Summits of the Americas process, continue to support the follow-up and dissemination of Summit mandates, and continue to offer support to member states in implementing the mandates of the Declaration of Mar del Plata and its Plan of Action, as well as provide technical support in the preparation of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009.
5. To request the General Secretariat to provide updates to the CISC and to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on the ongoing implementation and follow-up of the commitments undertaken in the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Declaration of Nuevo León, and the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.
6. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, through the Joint Summit Working Group, chaired by the OAS Summits Secretariat, to coordinate and promote the implementation and follow-up, in all agencies, of the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, the Declaration of

Nuevo León, and the Declaration of Mar del Plata. To request, further, that it hold at least one meeting of the heads of the member agencies of the Joint Summit Working Group each year to review progress made and plan joint activities, as a complement to the regular interagency meetings, and provide assistance in the preparatory activities for the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

7. To request the General Secretariat to continue providing the necessary support for ministerial and sectoral meetings related to the implementation of Summit mandates and commitments on topics of interest to the OAS.

8. To request the General Secretariat to make efforts, through the Summits Secretariat, to promote and disseminate among the various social actors the mandates and commitments emanating from the Summits of the Americas so that these actors may contribute to their implementation.

9. To urge member states to continue contributing to the Specific Fund for the Summit Implementation Review Group in order to provide financial support for the Group's activities.

10. To request the General Secretariat to submit to the Permanent Council systematic and detailed information on the budgetary and financial management of said Specific Fund.

11. To request the General Secretariat, within budgetary availability, to strengthen the Summits Secretariat by providing it with the human and financial resources it needs to support follow-up and dissemination of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas.

12. To instruct the General Secretariat to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; and to instruct the Secretary General to seek additional voluntary funds to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution.

13. To instruct the General Secretariat to report to the Permanent Council before the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2339 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE OF THE AMERICAS FOR THE RIGHTS
AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (2006–2016)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, in the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005), the Heads of State and Government instructed the Organization of American States (OAS) to “consider at the next OAS period of regular sessions of the General Assembly to be held in the Dominican Republic, a Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016), together with a program of action”;

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1249 (XXIII-O/93) and AG/RES. 1356 (XXV-O/95), “Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere”; AG/RES. 1369 (XXVI-O/96), “Panama Commitment to Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere”; and AG/RES. 2230 (XXXVI-O/06), “Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016)”;

BEARING IN MIND:

The Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016), adopted in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with the theme “Equality, Dignity, and Participation” [AG/DEC. 50 (XXXVI-O/06)], the objectives of which are the recognition and full exercise of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and their right to participate fully in economic, social, cultural, and political life and in the development of their societies, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others; and

The need, during the aforementioned Decade, to undertake programs, plans, and measures to bring about the inclusion of and full participation by persons with disabilities in all aspects of society; to carry out social, political, economic, cultural, and development programs that afford such persons opportunities; to promote effective measures to prevent new disabilities; and to provide persons with disabilities with access to rehabilitation services and programs, on an equal basis with others;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the holding of the special meeting to receive contributions on the Draft Program of Action from the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), the relevant organs, agencies, and entities of the OAS, and other regional and international organizations, as well as from civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities and their families, held at OAS headquarters on December 12, 2006; and

CONSIDERING:

The report of the Working Group to Prepare a Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016) (CP/CAJP/DDD-

63/07), whereby a Preliminary Draft Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016) was submitted; and

That the Program of Action assigns the coordination of its execution to a technical secretariat, the purpose of which will be to provide support to member states, persons with disabilities and their organizations, and OAS bodies, to follow up on the commitments set forth therein and the planning of activities in pursuit of its specific aims and measures,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016), which is part of this resolution.

2. To assign the coordination of implementation of the program to a technical secretariat entrusted with following up on the Program of Action and the planning of activities in pursuit of its aims and specific measures. To that end, to instruct the Permanent Council to present, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) in consultation with the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), a proposal defining the structure, legal nature, and funding of the Technical Secretariat, which would function with voluntary contributions, as well as substantive follow-up of the Program, for approval by the Permanent Council during the last quarter of 2007.

3. To instruct the Permanent Council to follow up on this resolution, which will be implemented within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, and to present a report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE OF THE AMERICAS
FOR THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
(2006–2016)

THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

BEARING IN MIND the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “Protocol of San Salvador,” and the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities;

EMPHASIZING that the member states of the Organization of American States have addressed the subject of persons with disabilities in various resolutions, including resolutions AG/RES. 1249 (XXIII-O/93) and AG/RES. 1356 (XXV-O/95), “Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere,” and AG/RES. 1369 (XXVI-O/96), “Panama Commitment to Persons with Disabilities in the American Hemisphere,” and in various declarations such as the Declaration of Managua of 1993 and the Declaration of Panama of 2005, issued at the Fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Association of Caribbean States;

BEARING IN MIND that, in the international arena, a number of instruments have been adopted that set down guidelines relating to disability, deal with assistance to persons with disabilities, and establish their rights, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (1971), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (1975), the United Nations World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (1982), the Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and the Improvement of Mental Health Care (1991), the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), as well as conventions and recommendations from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other agreements and resolutions emanating from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), among them resolution WHA58.23, “Disability, including prevention, management, and rehabilitation,” adopted by the 58th World Health Assembly on May 25, 2005, and resolution CD47.R1 of the 47th Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization, “Disability: Prevention and Rehabilitation in the Context of the Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health and Other Related Rights,” of September 2006;

RECALLING the proclamation of 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons, the Proclamation of the International Day of Disabled Persons (1992), the Final Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on Monitoring the Implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1996), and resolution 2005/65, “Human rights of persons with disabilities,” of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;

HAVING COMPLIED with the mandate of the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005) instructing the Organization of American States to consider the adoption of a Declaration of the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016), with a Program of Action; and bearing in mind that the OAS General Assembly, meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in June 2006, adopted that Declaration and requested that a Working Group be established to prepare a Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016), for adoption by the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-seventh regular session; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the considerations contained in the Declaration of the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006–2016) adopted on June 6, 2006, by the OAS General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic,

ADOPT the following Program of Action:

I. VISION STATEMENT:

- By 2016, the member states shall have made substantial progress in building an inclusive society based on solidarity and on recognition of the enjoyment and full and equal exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Persons with disabilities should be recognized and valued for their actual and potential contributions to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities in both urban and rural areas.
- The need to alleviate the pernicious effect of poverty on persons with disabilities, which often places them in a situation of vulnerability, discrimination, and exclusion; therefore their rights should be genuinely recognized, promoted, and protected, with special attention in national and regional development and anti-poverty programs.

II. MISSION STATEMENT:

The member states undertake to adopt, gradually and over a reasonable period of time, administrative, legislative, and judicial measures and the necessary public policies for effective domestic application of the Program of Action, so as to place persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

III. OBJECTIVES:

1. Promoting Social Awareness:

To promote the recognition of all human rights of persons with disabilities, the protection of their dignity, and due recognition of their value; and to eliminate all forms of

discrimination and all cultural, attitudinal, and other barriers to their development and full and effective inclusion in society.

2. Health:

To expand, improve, and ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services on an equal basis with all other persons. Also to promote scientific and technological research on the prevention of preventable disabilities, on treatment, and on rehabilitation.

3. Education:

To ensure and guarantee access for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with all other persons and without discrimination, to inclusive education of quality, including their entry, stay, and advancement in the educational system, thereby facilitating their productive incorporation into all areas of society.

4. Employment:

To promote the full, dignified, productive, and remunerative inclusion of persons with disabilities, whether dependent or independent, in the labor force, in both the public and private sectors, on the basis of their technical and professional training, as well as equal employment opportunities, including the availability of accessible work environments.

5. Accessibility:

To eliminate existing physical, architectural, communications, information, and transportation barriers by promoting the use of universal design for all new projects and the renovation of existing infrastructure, so that persons with disabilities may live independently and participate actively in all aspects of community and private life. To ensure safe and independent access by persons with disabilities, and on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, open spaces, urban systems, buildings, transportation services, and information and communication systems, including information and communication technologies, and to other services and facilities that are public or open to the public, in both urban and rural areas.

6. Political Participation:

To ensure the full and active participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in public and political life, including in the formulation and adoption of government policies designed to protect and promote their rights on an equal basis with all other persons.

7. Participation in Cultural, Artistic, Sports, and Recreational Activities:

To promote public policies to foster culture, sports, leisure, and tourism as instruments for human development and civic responsibility, ensuring that persons with disabilities may participate in cultural, sports, recreational, and any other activities that enhance the social inclusion and integral development of individuals on an equal basis with

others, and to promote the use of technical aids to develop creative, artistic, and intellectual capabilities in their different manifestations.

8. Welfare and Social Assistance:

To ensure access for persons with disabilities to welfare and social security programs and to guarantee social assistance measures for their families.

9. International Cooperation:

To promote international cooperation as an effective instrument in support of national activities involving partnerships with various actors, at the national, regional, and international levels, including the private sector and civil society organizations, especially those specializing in this field.

IV. SPECIFIC MEASURES:

1. Promoting Social Awareness:

a. Education and dissemination

Promote the development, at all levels of the educational system, of inclusive plans, programs, and public policies designed to:

- i. Create and strengthen a culture of positive appreciation of the human potential, self-determination, individual independence, knowledge, merits, skills, and contributions to society of persons with disabilities, promoting respect for and protection of their dignity and their rights.
- ii. Incorporate the subject of persons with disabilities into the text and illustrations of schoolbooks and into the whole curriculum, in a crosscutting manner.
- iii. Promote the development of ongoing sensitization and awareness-raising programs and of training programs for officials and other personnel in all branches of government and the private sector, emphasizing the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities and promoting the eradication of terms and cultural practices that involve deep-seated prejudices, stereotypes, and discriminatory attitudes against persons with disabilities.
- iv. Incorporate policies to protect the rights of persons with disabilities into national mechanisms or systems for promoting and protecting human rights, which could include the establishment of ombudmen's

offices for persons with disabilities or similar entities in countries in which they do not exist.

Implement and maintain public awareness campaigns regarding persons with disabilities, including the following actions:

- i. Disseminate a culture of positive appreciation in the mass media and consider including the participation of persons with disabilities in those media.
- ii. Promote the concept of social responsibility and inclusive development in all spheres of society, respecting diversity and fostering equal opportunities for all.
- iii. Incorporate into government advertising or campaigns those practices that comprehensively promote the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- iv. Develop public awareness programs and training on universal design, targeting the public and private sectors.

Support role of civil society

- i. Foster the establishment of social networks or community or volunteer support groups to promote the recognition and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their full and effective participation in society.
- ii. Promote the establishment of civil society organizations, with the participation of persons with disabilities, that promote and foster their dignity and rights and, where applicable, strengthen existing organizations.

2. Health:

- a. Promotion and protection of health and prevention of disabilities:
 - i. Guarantee access for persons with disabilities to physical and mental health services, on an equal basis with all other persons, with proper attention to their special health needs related to their disabilities, in the least restrictive environment possible.
 - ii. Encourage the adoption of prevention, detection, and early intervention measures in the case of disabling diseases and the prevention of accidents and preventable risks.

- iii. Promote and disseminate scientific and epidemiological research to learn about the causes of disabilities, possible solutions, and the prevention of disabling diseases and injuries, and to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities.
- iv. Foster pre-conception and prenatal health care and comprehensive health services, including information and appropriate nutrition for expectant mothers and for children under three, encouraging breastfeeding given the disabilities that can result from risks prior to or during childbirth and from insufficient development in early childhood, with special emphasis on rural and indigenous areas.
- v. Carry out free mass vaccination programs to prevent diseases that cause disability.
- vi. Provide to persons with disabilities free or affordable health care programs and care of the same variety and quality as that provided to others, including programs in the area of sexual and reproductive health, and public health programs for the general public.
- vii. Promote voluntary screening for transmissible diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure, and transmissible infections, including sexually transmitted diseases, with a view to preventing disability.
- viii. Prevent, prohibit, and punish mistreatment, sexual abuse, and exploitation, especially within the family, of persons with disabilities, especially children and women.
- ix. Promote the establishment of equipped health care facilities, providing proper access, examination, and treatment for persons with disabilities.
- x. Develop, implement, and disseminate security and hygiene measures and standards in the workplace to avert or lower the risk of accidents at work, and adapt workplaces to prevent occupational disabilities and illnesses.
- xi. Proceed to the identification and clearance of antipersonnel mines and other unexploded ordnance in territories where there have been armed conflicts, in order to prevent disabling accidents.
- xii. Guarantee proper and timely physical and mental medical care of quality for persons with disabilities, taking account of their age, and provide them, free of charge or at affordable prices, with the treatment and medicine they need to overcome episodes of illness, monitor their health condition, and prevent deterioration of their health or exacerbation of their disability.

- xiii. Design and implement educational prevention strategies that address all determining factors for disabilities and promote healthy lifestyles, at all levels, for persons with disabilities.
 - xiv. Conduct driver-education programs and programs on the consequences of traffic accidents in order to prevent possible disabilities.
- b. Rehabilitation:
- i. Promote community-based rehabilitation strategies, with emphasis on basic health care, that are integrated into the health care system and tailored to each country's specific needs, enlisting in their design and application disabled people's organizations.
 - ii. Strengthen existing rehabilitation services, so that all persons with disabilities have access to the rehabilitation services they need, as close as possible to their place of residence, even in rural areas.
 - iii. Promote appropriate training for professional and technical staff to provide comprehensive care for physical/motor, sensorial, mental, and psychosocial disabilities.
 - iv. Promote the development of specific educational and training programs geared to domestic production and supply of technical and biomechanical aids, as well as the participation of persons with disabilities in those programs.
 - v. In addition to medical rehabilitation, promote professional rehabilitation and survival strategies in the context of community rehabilitation.
 - vi. Move to establish intersectoral agreements and programs that link actions designed to achieve comprehensive rehabilitation from childhood for persons with disabilities.
3. Education:
- a. Promote the inclusion of children and adolescents with disabilities and special educational needs into the mainstream educational system in an integrated environment.
 - b. Ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from the mainstream educational system for reasons of disability and that children with disabilities are not excluded from cost-free primary education or from secondary education for reasons of disability. Likewise, promote access to technical, higher, and vocational education for students with disabilities.

- c. Ensure that persons with disabilities have general access to higher education, vocational training, adult education, and learning throughout their lives, without discrimination and on equal terms with all others. To that end, states shall ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for persons with disabilities.
- d. Provide the necessary instructional and learning resources, as available, to meet the special educational needs of students at inclusive educational institutions.
- e. Continue to have special schools for children and adolescents who need special education because of their type or degree of disability, with sufficient budget funds to operate with trained specialists and support staff, and a permanent, adequate supply of appropriate materials of quality.
- f. Promote early education programs aimed at developing the skills of preschool children with disabilities, according to their specific needs.
- g. Eradicate illiteracy in young people and adults with disabilities through public policies.
- h. Facilitate the learning of Braille, alternative writing, other forms and methods of alternative/augmentative communication, and orientation and mobility skills, and promote the support of others in the same circumstances, the learning of sign language, and the linguistic identity of the deaf.
- i. At all educational levels, ensure the elimination of physical barriers that impede access by students with needs associated with their disabilities, as a condition for conducting inclusive education activities.
- j. Promote ongoing, specialized training, both on-site and through distance learning, of teachers at all educational levels and of other professionals involved with disabilities, to encourage the formulation and normal development of inclusion policies, with emphasis on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- k. Develop specific curricular adaptations and teaching strategies, by type of disability, for an effective response to the educational needs of students with disabilities, and guarantee their effective learning.
- l. Design and execute educational programs using new information and communication technologies to meet educational needs associated with disability.
- m. Attach priority to the allocation of sufficient financial resources to ensure compliance with inclusive educational policies.

- n. Generate development and assistance programs for the families of children and adolescents with disabilities to ensure that poverty does not hinder access to appropriate public education.
- o. Promote the subject of universal design in public education curricula, from primary school through secondary school and university.

4. Employment:

- a. Guarantee that persons with disabilities may exercise their labor and trade union rights freely and without discrimination. The physical or personal supports that persons with disabilities need in order to do their work will not be considered unequal treatment, but rather as positive action measures required to establish equal opportunity.
- b. Develop, in both the public and private sectors, programs to incorporate persons with disabilities into the labor market and promote programs of occupational, technical, and vocational adaptation, instruction, and training.
- c. Create special plans for persons with disabilities, on matters including employment policy, prevention of occupational diseases and accidents, health, job security, social security, vocational training and retraining, and human resources development, including measures appropriate to persons with disabilities in the workplace, with emphasis, among other things, on retention, loss, or change of employment, consideration of flexible working hours, part-time work, and the possibility of job sharing.

Also promote the creation of home-based jobs or telework, taking into account new information and communication technologies, as a way to facilitate increased opportunities for persons with disabilities in the labor market.

- d. Carry out studies and programs to construct job profiles and capabilities, according to the type of disability, providing vocational counseling and professional guidance, in order to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities in tasks suited to those profiles and capabilities.
- e. Promote the application of mechanisms designed to encourage the setting aside of jobs for persons with disabilities.
- f. Promote the establishment of employment bureaus that consider jobs accessible to persons with different types of disability.
- g. Promote the hiring of persons with disabilities in the private sector by means of affirmative action policies, tax incentives, subsidies, or special funding, and similar measures, on an equal basis.

- h. Monitor the effective application of, and compliance with, the provisions contained in ILO conventions and recommendations on the subject, to the extent that they are applicable to the states.
- i. Promote business opportunities, independent work, the formation of cooperatives, and the establishment of micro and small enterprises of persons with disabilities, and the strengthening of those that already exist.
- j. Support the development of productive projects and promotion of the products of micro and small enterprises of persons with disabilities and consider establishing funds and flexible credit lines for such purposes.
- k. Promote efforts to ensure that actions in favor of recognition of the labor qualifications of workers with disabilities are taken into consideration in collective- bargaining agreements with trade unions.
- l. Implement effective policies to support the family or community work of persons with disabilities.

5. Accessibility:

- a. Ensure compliance with technical standards on accessibility for persons with disabilities, in accordance with Objective 5, Accessibility.
- b. Move to eliminate barriers posed by existing urban design and architecture at all public agencies and public facilities and encourage that practice in the private sector.
- c. Take steps to ensure that no new construction or services or facilities used by the public have barriers to access by persons with disabilities.
- d. Move toward the elimination of existing barriers in all forms of transport in order to facilitate access by persons with disabilities, while seeking to ensure that, with respect to transportation system-related information, consideration will be given to the use of such forms of information transmission as the written word, sign language, Braille, audio, visual, embossed, and other alternative means of communication.
- e. Promote the elimination of communications and information barriers in all communications media and in facilities used by the public and for public services, to improve access for persons with disabilities and enable them to receive the information.
- f. Facilitate access to reading for persons with disabilities, by adopting or adapting public policies in this field, and fostering their full participation in all spheres related to reading. Governments at all levels must take the

necessary steps to ensure that those policies provide access to books in Braille, large-type books, and audio and/or electronic books.

- g. Promote access by persons with disabilities to new information and communication systems and technologies, including the Internet. To that end, states may consider, as appropriate, providing subsidies, exemption from all taxes, and access to financing facilities for purchasing such systems and technologies, in accordance with the particular type of disability.
- h. Promote the adaptation of public- and private-sector virtual portals to make them accessible to persons with sight-related disabilities.
- i. Consider adopting the applicable provisions of the Accessibility Standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) or similar standards.
- j. Promote the adoption of measures for the design and adaptation of workplaces to make them accessible to persons with disabilities.

6. Political Participation:

- a. Ensure that persons with disabilities exercise their rights and duties as citizens and enjoy fundamental freedoms, by facilitating their registration and identification.
- b. Guarantee full participation by persons with disabilities in the voting process as voters or candidates, on an equal basis with other people, providing the necessary means of access, including the option of voting with the assistance of the person of one's choice, and adapting electoral systems to that end.
- c. Promote participation by persons with disabilities in public office in their countries.
- d. Consider the contributions and views of persons or organizations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, and monitoring of government policies in this area, especially those that directly affect them.
- e. Promote coordination among the various associations of persons with disabilities so as to strengthen their participation in public policy debates at every level and consolidate the defense of their interests.
- f. Promote training policies geared toward persons with disabilities in order to develop their leadership skills in public affairs.
- g. Strengthen, institutionally and administratively, government agencies or mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities.

7. Participation in Cultural, Artistic, Sports, and Recreational Activities:

- a. By way of national action plans, promote the active involvement of persons with disabilities in cultural, artistic, sports, and recreational activities.
- b. Allocate resources to foster the cultural, artistic, sports, and recreational activities of persons with disabilities.
- c. Encourage organized sports activities as a way to promote and maintain health, through joint efforts by sports organizations of persons with disabilities and their families and by national bodies responsible for organizing and holding said activities.
- d. Promote the conditions required for accessible tourism, through agreements with the domestic tourist and hotel industries.
- e. Promote the reduction or elimination of entrance fees for persons with disabilities to installations offering tourist, recreational, or leisure services, cultural shows, sports events, or other activities open to the public.
- f. Afford training opportunities to persons with disabilities for work in tourist, cultural, sports, and recreational areas.
- g. Promote greater awareness of the capabilities and contributions of athletes and artists with disabilities.
- h. Encourage the cultivation, study, and development of artistic professions among persons with disabilities, to promote creativity, self-esteem, and communication, from childhood, in a climate of equality, dignity, and mutual respect that leads to a better quality of life for this population sector.

8. Welfare and Social Assistance:

- a. Incorporate into the welfare and/or social assistance system rules that take into account the specific characteristics of persons with disabilities with respect to working hours, years of retirement contributions, and retirement plans.
- b. Ensure access to social welfare programs and anti-poverty strategies for persons with disabilities, especially women, children, and the elderly.
- c. Guarantee persons with disabilities and their families equal access to, and inclusion in, food security, drinking water, basic sanitation, and housing programs.

9. International Cooperation:

- a. Promote, in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS) and at the international level, programs and projects for information and experience exchange, capacity building, and institutional strengthening among states, multilateral organizations, the private sector, and civil society organizations.
- b. Promote and encourage other cooperative initiatives among the OAS member states as a genuine mechanism of American solidarity for designing and executing programs and projects facilitating the exchange of experiences and information, strengthening human and institutional capacities, through the cooperation and participation of multilateral organizations and civil society organizations.
- c. Entrust OAS organs, agencies, and entities, as well as other inter-American agencies, as required, with cooperating with the General Secretariat in all aspects of planning and implementation, since their cooperation will be essential for achievement of the Decade objectives.
- d. Encourage civil society organizations specializing in this field to support the General Secretariat and the member states in implementing the Program of Action of the Decade in accordance with the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.

V. STRATEGIES

1. Assume the political commitment to implement this Program of Action, incorporating it into the corresponding national plans, for which they will allocate the necessary resources and ensure their timely and proper execution, follow-up, and evaluation.
2. Without prejudice to the adoption of the necessary national measures, review, harmonize, update, and improve their legislation to bring it into line with a hemispheric perspective, in order to give effect to this Program of Action and make it compatible with international human rights instruments.
3. Work in close collaboration with persons with disabilities and with civil society organizations specializing in this field in the preparation, development, and implementation of the appropriate legislative norms.
4. Promote the strengthening of civil society organizations, in particular those involved in the issue of disability, in each country, in order to generate capacity for action to boost state initiatives and create optimal conditions for generating government policies guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities and their families and respect for their dignity.

5. Promote the formation or, as appropriate, the strengthening of government agencies for protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.
6. Promote regional unification of methods and standards for collecting disaggregated statistical data and the use of a standardized classification of classes, types, and subtypes of disabilities, taking into account the classification formulated by the World Health Organization, in order to establish national databases that are comparable and contain quality-of-life indicators for persons with disabilities.
7. Guarantee confidentiality and the proper use of statistical data, which must never be used to the detriment of persons with disabilities; and ensure at all times that no one is subjected to medical or scientific experiments without his or her free and informed consent.
8. Assign responsibility for coordinating execution of the program to a technical secretariat, the purpose of which, in accordance with the content of this Program of Action, will be to plan activities for the achievement of its objectives and specific actions and to provide technical support to the member states, to persons with disabilities and their organizations, and to OAS organs, agencies, and entities.

AG/RES. 2340 (XXXVII-O/07)

ELECTION OF TWO EXTERNAL AUDITORS AT THE THIRTY-SEVENTH
REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That, by resolution AG/RES. 123 (III-O/73), the General Assembly adopted the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, in which Article IX (Advisory Services, Auditing, and Fiscal Control) provides for an external audit to examine the accounts of the General Secretariat;

That, by resolution AG/RES. 148 (IV-O/74), the General Assembly resolved “that the Permanent Council adopt the necessary measures for the establishment of the external auditing,” and authorized the Permanent Council to make the corresponding appointments;

That, pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 124 (164/75), the Permanent Council adopted rules for the “Designation of External Auditors to Examine the Accounts of the General Secretariat”;

That operative paragraph 1 of resolution CP/RES. 124 (164/75) rev. 2 provides that the Board of External Auditors shall have three members “each of whom shall be a high-ranking officer of the office or entity responsible for examining the accounts at the public administration in the member state of which he is a national”;

That, pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of resolution CP/RES. 124 (164/75) rev. 2, “[t]he members of the Board of External Auditors shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of office of three years and may not be reelected. Their term of office shall begin on January 1 of the year following their election”;

That the current Chair of the Board has recommended that the members be elected in staggered terms such that not more than one new member is elected each year so as to ensure that each year the Board has at least two members with prior Board experience;

That because the three-year terms of two current members of the Board will expire on December 31, 2007, the General Assembly must elect two new members; and

That, in order to ensure that the terms of the newly elected members and their successors are staggered, it is necessary, for the purposes of the election to be held at this thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, that the term of one of the members of the Board of External Auditors to be elected by the General Assembly be shortened to two years,

RESOLVES:

1. To agree, solely for purposes of the election of the two members of the Board of External Auditors to be held at this thirty-seventh regular session, that the term of one of the external auditors to be elected shall be two years and the term of the other external auditor shall be three years.

2. To agree that the election of the two external auditors shall take place without reference as to which auditor will have a two-year term and which auditor will have a three-year term.

3. To determine by lot which of the two elected external auditors will have a two-year term and which of the two elected external auditors will have a three-year term.

AG/RES. 2341 (XXXVII-O/07)

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF
AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES,
AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1), in particular the section on the matters entrusted to the Committee on Hemispheric Security;

REITERATING the urgent need for all member states to take the appropriate measures and to cooperate with one another to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials, because of the harmful effects of these activities on the security of each state and the region as a whole, since they jeopardize the well-being of peoples, their social and economic development, and their right to live in peace;

REAFFIRMING the principles of sovereignty, nonintervention, and the juridical equality of states;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) for promoting and facilitating cooperation and the sharing of information and experiences among the states parties with a view to preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials;

REAFFIRMING the importance of promoting and facilitating cooperation and the sharing of information and experiences among all the states at the bilateral, regional, and international levels with a view to averting, combating, and eradicating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the importance of the decisions adopted by the First Conference of the States Party to the CIFTA, held in Bogotá, Colombia, on March 8 and 9, 2004, and in particular the commitments and measures agreed to in the Declaration of Bogotá on the Functioning and Application of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (Declaration of Bogotá);

RECALLING that, in the Declaration of Nuevo León, adopted on January 13, 2004, the democratically elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas, gathered for the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey, Mexico, 2004) expressed their commitment to fight all forms of transnational crime, including illicit arms trafficking;

CONSIDERING that the states of the Hemisphere recognized, in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted on October 28, 2003, in Mexico City, that the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials are a threat to hemispheric security and, when used by terrorists and criminals, undermine the rule of law, breed violence and, in some cases, impunity, exacerbate conflicts, and represent a serious threat to human security, and that they agreed to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials;

BEARING IN MIND the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the hemispheric contribution to its implementation, and the importance of taking concrete measures in the Hemisphere toward implementation of the national, regional, and global components of that Programme of Action;

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1 (XXIV-E/97), AG/RES. 1621 (XXIX-O/99), AG/RES. 1750 (XXX-O/00), AG/RES. 1800 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1874 (XXXII-O/02), AG/RES. 1972 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 1999 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2094 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2179 (XXXVI-O/06), regarding the CIFTA;

CONSIDERING the substantial progress made by the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, especially the decisions adopted at its eighth regular meeting, held on April 19, 2007;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION:

The results of the Second Meeting of the CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation on the Areas Covered by the CIFTA, regarding model legislation on the marking and tracing of firearms and on the strengthening of controls at export points, held on October 11 and 12, 2006, at the headquarters of the Organization;

The Work Program for 2007-2008 of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, adopted by that Committee at its seventh regular meeting;

The seminar organized by the General Secretariat in Santiago, Chile, on November 9 and 10, 2006, in collaboration with the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC), and the Office of the Director General of National Mobilization of the Chilean Ministry of Defense, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices in the region with regard to stockpile management and security, and the destruction of obsolete or surplus weapons;

The firearms destruction programs carried out by the General Secretariat in Nicaragua and Colombia;

The seminar organized by the General Secretariat in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from March 20 to 22, 2007, on transnational organized crime in the Caribbean, in particular its component on illicit arms trafficking; and

The participation of the Technical Secretariat of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA in the United Nations Conference to Review the Progress Made in the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held at United Nations headquarters in New York from June 26 to July 7, 2006;

HAVING SEEN the report of the Secretary General on the status of signatures and ratifications of the CIFTA and taking note of the fact that this Convention has been signed by 33 member states and ratified by 26 of them; and

REAFFIRMING the importance of the earliest possible entry into force of the CIFTA in all member states in order to facilitate and guarantee the achievement of its purposes throughout the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge all member states that have not already done so to give prompt consideration to ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), and to adopting all necessary measures for its effective implementation.

2. To convene for February 20 and 21, 2008, at OAS headquarters, the Second Conference of the States Party to the CIFTA to examine its functioning and application, pursuant to Article XXVIII of the Convention, and also to support any related preparatory meetings.

3. To convene for April 29 and 30, 2008, at OAS headquarters, the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, pursuant to Article XXI of the Convention, and also to support any related preparatory meetings.

4. To convene, in the framework of the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA, the Third Meeting of the OAS Group of Experts to Prepare Model Legislation in the Areas to Which the CIFTA Refers, for October 15 and 16, 2007, to consider draft model legislation on legislative measures, pursuant to Article IV of the Convention.

5. To adopt the model legislation on the marking and tracing of firearms, approved by the Consultative Committee at its eighth regular meeting, on April 19, 2007.

6. To request the General Secretariat to continue its work with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) and its partners, and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) through the Inter-American Defense College, to prepare and offer specialized workshops on the destruction of small arms, light weapons, and ammunition, and on stockpile management.

7. Also to request the General Secretariat to continue its work with UNODA and with UN-LiREC and its partners to develop and offer specialized courses in special investigation techniques for the authorities responsible for preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

8. To invite the Consultative Committee of the CIFTA to continue reporting periodically to the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council on progress in the implementation of the Declaration of Bogotá on the Functioning and Application of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (Declaration of Bogotá), so that said Committee may take such information into account when preparing coordinated strategies and integrated action plans in connection with the new threats, concerns, and other challenges to hemispheric security.

9. To invite the states party to the CIFTA to make voluntary contributions in order to support the activities established in the Work Program for 2007-2008.

10. To request OAS member states and permanent observers, and international, regional, and subregional organizations interested in the subject, as well as the international community, to consider the possibility of providing the Technical Secretariat of the CIFTA with technical, financial, and educational assistance to support the implementation of measures to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, and other related materials.

11. To direct that the Second Conference of the States Party to the CIFTA and the meetings of the Consultative Committee, including the preparatory meetings for the Conference, be held within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources; and to request the General Secretariat to provide the necessary administrative and technical secretariat support for these purposes.

12. To request the Secretary General to present a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the status of signatures and ratifications of the CIFTA.

13. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2342 (XXXVII-O/07)

PREVENTION OF THE DIVERSION AND ILLICIT DISTRIBUTION VIA THE INTERNET
OF CONTROLLED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONALLY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

AWARE that the illicit distribution via the Internet of controlled pharmaceutical products and other internationally controlled substances is an increasingly serious problem, and that lack of oversight of the use by the general public, especially minors, of such products and substances purchased via the Internet constitutes a serious risk to world health;

RECALLING that, in its resolution CND Res.43/8, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs encouraged Member States to take cooperation measures to prevent the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and precursor chemicals via the Internet;

BEARING IN MIND that, at its 50th session, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted the resolution “International cooperation in preventing the illegal distribution of internationally controlled licit substances via the Internet” (E/CN.7/2007/L.13/Rev.1);

NOTING that the International Narcotics Control Board underscored *inter alia*, in its report for 2006, the illicit distribution via the Internet of internationally controlled licit substances;

RECOGNIZING that it is unlawful to distribute controlled pharmaceutical products and other internationally controlled substances via the Internet in contravention of an international treaty or domestic law;

RECALLING the national and international measures for controlling the diversion of internationally controlled substances through application of the provisions of the United Nations 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by its 1972 Protocol; the United Nations 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

NOTING that the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States, at its 40th regular session, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in November 2006, adopted a guide entitled “Drugs in Cyberspace: Understanding & Investigating Diversion & Distribution of Controlled Substances via the Internet”;

RECOGNIZING that said guide discusses the scope of the issue, its elements, and instruments that member states can use to react to this problem, including the need for the corresponding legislation;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the important work done by CICAD in providing technical assistance to the public and private sectors to support and strengthen the capacities of member states to monitor, investigate, and curb the illicit distribution of controlled pharmaceutical products and other internationally controlled substances via the Internet; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of the work done by the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and the Group of Experts on Pharmaceutical Products of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the initiatives arising from the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) to promote measures for combating the illicit distribution in the Hemisphere via the Internet of internationally controlled substances.

2. To encourage member states to adopt laws, policies, and programs, or to strengthen existing ones, for effective prevention of the diversion and illicit distribution via the Internet of controlled pharmaceutical products and other internationally controlled substances.

3. To invite the member states to consider the guide "Drugs in Cyberspace: Understanding & Investigating Diversion & Distribution of Controlled Substances via the Internet," adopted by CICAD, in determining whether adequate national measures are in place to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and punish the illicit distribution via the Internet of internationally controlled substances.

4. To urge member states to promote greater public awareness, including within the pharmaceutical industry, of the risks of the illicit sale via the Internet of controlled substances.

5. To encourage member states to notify the International Narcotics Control Board periodically and precisely of seizures of illicit or counterfeit internationally controlled drugs that were ordered, purchased, and acquired via the Internet and received by mail, so that it may conduct in-depth analysis of trafficking trends and continue its work of raising awareness in that connection and preventing abuse of the Internet for the illicit supply, sale, and distribution of internationally controlled substances.

6. To urge member states with experience in investigating drug-related offenses perpetrated via the Internet to make available, when necessary, to member states that so request, equipment, training, and technical assistance, in cooperation with other regional and international organizations working in the area of drugs, for example to launch, continue, or conclude a specific investigation.

7. To urge CICAD to continue to examine this important issue through its Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and its Group of Experts on Pharmaceutical Products.

8. To request the Secretary General to forward this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the International Narcotics Control Board.

AG/RES. 2343 (XXXVII-O/07)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1) on the 2006 Annual Report of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) (CP/doc.4196/07 rev. 1);

CONSCIOUS of the need for continued progress in the fight against the production of illicit crops, drug trafficking, and related crimes, such as money laundering, the illegal distribution via the Internet of internationally controlled licit substances, and the diversion to illicit channels of pharmaceutical products and chemical precursors;

RECOGNIZING that CICAD, at its 40th regular session, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in November 2006, adopted a guide entitled “Drugs in Cyberspace: Understanding & Investigating Diversion & Distribution of Controlled Substances via the Internet”;

CONSCIOUS of the need to make greater headway with reduction in the demand for illicit drugs and other psychoactive substances for pharmaceutical use;

RECOGNIZING that drug abuse is a public health problem that affects society as a whole, that the member states attach great importance to early prevention of drug abuse in the family, school, workplace, and community, including programs that strengthen values and life skills in children and youth, and that the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers is an essential part of national health care systems;

DEEPLY CONCERNED over the existence, in some countries, of armed groups related to drug trafficking, giving rise to situations that can destabilize the institutional order and undermine democratic governance;

RECOGNIZING the links between illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) as an objective instrument for measuring the progress made by member states in controlling the illicit drug problem and strengthening hemispheric solidarity and cooperation; and

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that CICAD has strengthened its cooperation and exchange of information with all pertinent subregional, inter-American, and international bodies,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) for its presentation to the General Assembly of its Annual Report for 2006 (CP/doc.4196/07) and to congratulate it on the progress made in all aspects of the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

2. To reiterate the recommendations made in resolution AG/RES. 2198 (XXXVI-O/06); and to urge member states to:

- a. Continue strengthening the various aspects of their national drug control systems, including the national drug commissions, national drug control strategies and plans, and, as appropriate, decentralization to local and municipal governments; and, in general, their framework of laws and regulations adapted to the current characteristics of the problem in each country;
- b. Comply with the international conventions on the control of drugs and psychotropic substances, including, among others, the 1961, 1971, and 1988 United Nations conventions; and strengthen national law for combating illicit drug abuse and trafficking, ensuring a common regional focus;
- c. Expand their long-term programs in prevention and treatment of psychotropic substance abuse and in rehabilitation and social reintegration for different age groups; and take steps to ensure adequate resources for such programs;
- d. Ensure adequate resources and the long-term operation of their programs for the prevention and treatment of psychotropic substance abuse, rehabilitation, and social reincorporation, for control of drug trafficking and related offenses, and, when pertinent, for their integral and sustainable alternative development programs;
- e. Continue to strengthen their national controls over chemical precursors that can be used to produce illicit drugs and, in this effort, make full use of the pre-export notification (PEN) mechanism;
- f. Promote the development of technologies that can be applied to improving the control of drug trafficking and diversion of chemical precursors and the control of pharmaceutical products; and strengthen the resources appropriated to national agencies involved in this work;
- g. Establish or strengthen their financial intelligence units to detect potential money laundering cases, particularly those related to drug trafficking;
- h. Seek to involve, as appropriate, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, community-service organizations, religious institutions, other civil

society organizations, and the media in relevant aspects of their national drug programs;

- i. Consider the possibility of adopting measures that are geared to drug treatment as an alternative to prison or detention for cases of crimes of drug possession for personal use, in accordance with the legislation of each country;
- j. Strengthen horizontal cooperation among member states to further the work of CICAD in both demand reduction and supply reduction;
- k. Continue to work actively in the CICAD expert groups that address demand reduction, pharmaceuticals, chemical precursors, money laundering, and maritime drug trafficking, in order to facilitate and increase cooperation and coordination, as well as information exchange;
- l. Consider the use of specialized investigative techniques such as controlled deliveries and undercover operations, as part of their efforts to tackle drug trafficking and the diversion of chemical precursors used in the production of illegal drugs, in accordance with each country's legislation;
- m. Endeavor to ensure that policies and projects for integral and sustainable alternative development, and for sustainable social development, including prevention policies, support in an integral manner the ongoing economic viability of communities and families in those countries most affected by the production of drugs and the presence of illicit crops, as well as those countries most vulnerable to the appearance of such crops;
- n. Provide, maintain, or increase, to the extent possible, their financial and in-kind contributions to CICAD, so that it can increase its assistance to member states in their national efforts to comply with the recommendations of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). Thank those permanent observers and international financial institutions that have contributed to the work of CICAD; and
- o. Increase to the extent possible the resources devoted to all areas of the drug problem, introducing innovative financing initiatives.

3. To invite member states to take into consideration the guide entitled "Drugs in Cyberspace: Understanding & Investigating Diversion & Distribution of Controlled Substances via the Internet" when examining whether adequate measures exist to regulate, investigate, and prosecute the illegal distribution of internationally controlled licit substances via the Internet;

4. To urge member states to cooperate with governments that have requested training and technical assistance related to interdiction of drug trafficking, especially by sea, and money laundering; and to encourage the implementation of policies and programs in narcotics demand

reduction according to the hemispheric guidelines adopted by the Organization of American States on the basis of CICAD's work.

5. To acknowledge the progress made by the countries of the Hemisphere in combating the drug problem and to urge them to continue their efforts.

6. To urge the permanent observers and international financial institutions to initiate, maintain, or increase their contributions to CICAD's activities.

7. To instruct the CICAD Executive Secretariat to:

- a. Continue to support the work of the MEM and the expert groups dedicated to making progress in the following thematic areas: demand reduction; control of pharmaceuticals, chemical precursors, and money laundering; and maritime drug trafficking, each of which provides information to the Commission as a guide in its decision-making;
- b. In accordance with the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere of 1996, to continue to support countries' policies and programs corresponding to areas identified in the MEM, according to the needs of each country, in relation to its efforts to control the consumption of and trafficking in illicit drugs and related crimes;
- c. Continue to provide technical assistance to member countries for the development of their national anti-drug plans;
- d. Continue to strengthen different aspects of countries' national anti-drug systems, specifically the national commissions, their legal and regulatory framework, their plans and strategies, their institutional development and strengthening, and the training of their human resources, at the request of member states;
- e. Through the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, continue to support member states in their efforts to develop and maintain uniform national data collection systems on the problem of the illicit production of, trafficking in, and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related offenses, enabling them to measure the dimensions of the problem, update and improve demand reduction strategies, and track new trends in the demand for illicit substances and other psychoactive substances for pharmaceutical use;
- f. Develop and maintain drug-related information systems at the hemispheric level;
- g. Provide technical assistance and support for knowledge transfer and exchange related to drug issues between the Executive Secretariat of CICAD and member states;

- h. Continue to provide technical assistance and support to those member states wishing to adopt and use the CICAD Toolkit and Manual for the evaluation of their substance abuse prevention programs and to receive updates about the results of the evaluations;
- i. Continue to provide technical assistance and support to member states' demand reduction programs, particularly in the areas of drug abuse prevention programs, in both schools and the workplace;
- j. Continue to provide training and other technical assistance to increase the capacity of member states to:
 - i. Control illicit drugs, pharmaceutical products, chemical precursors, and synthetic drugs;
 - ii. Control the sale of drugs via the Internet, taking into consideration the guide approved by CICAD entitled "Drugs in Cyberspace: Understanding & Investigating Diversion & Distribution of Controlled Substances via the Internet";
 - iii. Control maritime narcotrafficking and secure their borders, ports, and airports against the threat of illicit drugs and related contraband, such as chemical precursors;
 - iv. Gather information and develop anti-drug intelligence; and
 - v. Reduce the cultivation and production of illicit drugs, and help identify and develop integral and sustainable alternatives to illicit drug cultivation and production;
- k. Continue to provide training and other technical assistance to promote the capacity of law enforcement, customs, and other officials of member states responsible for controlling drugs, the diversion of chemical precursors, and related contraband;
- l. Provide technical assistance and research training to health professionals to enable them to study and work on drug issues in the countries of the Hemisphere; and
- m. Continue its training and technical assistance programs in the area of money laundering.

AG/RES. 2344 (XXXVII-O/07)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1684 (XXIX-O/99), “Participatory Democracy,” and AG/RES. 1721 (XXX-O/00), “Promotion of Democracy”;

TAKING NOTE of the Report of the Rapporteur on the Seminar for Analysis and Reflection on Participatory Democracy (CP/CAJP-1638/00 corr. 1), held on April 10 and 11, 2000, in the framework of the Working Group on Representative Democracy, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1684 (XXIX-O/99), and considering its results;

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the Organization of American States recognizes that “representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region” and that one of the essential purposes of the OAS is “[t]o promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention”;

REAFFIRMING that the participatory nature of democracy in our countries in different aspects of public life contributes to the consolidation of democratic values and to freedom and solidarity in the Hemisphere;

REAFFIRMING ALSO that the Inter-American Democratic Charter provides that:

“The effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law and of the constitutional regimes of the member states of the Organization of American States. Representative democracy is strengthened and deepened by permanent, ethical, and responsible participation of the citizenry within a legal framework conforming to the respective constitutional order”;

“It is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development. This is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy”;

“The elimination of all forms of discrimination, especially gender, ethnic and race discrimination, as well as diverse forms of intolerance, the promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous peoples and migrants, and respect for ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in the Americas contribute to strengthening democracy and citizen participation”; and

“The OAS will continue to carry out programs and activities designed to promote democratic principles and practices and strengthen a democratic culture in

the Hemisphere, bearing in mind that democracy is a way of life based on liberty and enhancement of economic, social, and cultural conditions for the peoples of the Americas. The OAS will consult and cooperate on an ongoing basis with member states and take into account the contributions of civil society organizations working in those fields”;

CONSIDERING that the Declaration of Mar del Plata states that the utmost must be done to take advantage of the possibilities offered by information and communication technologies (ICTs) to increase efficiency and transparency in the public sector and to facilitate the participation of citizens in public life, thereby helping to strengthen democratic governance in the region; and understanding the interrelationship between this and economic and social development;

RENEWING its trust in the commitment of all the countries to find ways to achieve the well-being of their peoples and to reinforce the universal values of sovereignty, liberty, independence, peace, solidarity, the common good, peaceful coexistence and the rule of law, and respect for human rights for this and for future generations; as well as to ensure social justice and equality before the law without any kind of discrimination;

BEARING IN MIND the grave social and economic imbalances that many of our countries are facing and that pose a challenge for strengthening and consolidating democracy, and the fact that peoples are demanding attention and solutions to their basic needs for, *inter alia*, work, education, and health; and reaffirming the commitment of the member states to find ways to achieve the well-being of their peoples and to ensure social justice and equality; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the democratic system possesses suitable mechanisms for its development and enhancement; and emphasizing the important and growing participation of citizens in the Hemisphere’s democracies,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to promote and foster diverse forms of participation by citizens, the community, and civil society in decision-making on integral development, so that they may contribute to finding solutions to the issues that affect them, to ensuring that the benefits of democracy are shared by society as a whole, and to strengthening and consolidating democracy and human rights.

2. To recommend to the member states that they develop and, as the case may be, expand networks of information on public policies and programs in order to enable citizens to play a much more effective role in decision-making in government.

3. To request that the Permanent Council, with support from the Secretariat for Political Affairs, hold a special meeting, to which broad sectors of society will be invited, to share experiences on the diverse ways in which member states are promoting citizen participation in all activities of society.

4. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2345 (XXXVII-O/07)

STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS OF THE
MEMBER STATES AND SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF DEFENDERS OF
THE PEOPLE, DEFENDERS OF THE POPULATION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS
ATTORNEYS OR COMMISSIONERS (OMBUDSMEN)

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2221 (XXXVI-O/06), “Strengthening of the National Human Rights Systems of the Member States and Support for the Work of Defenders of the People, Defenders of the Population, and Human Rights Attorneys or Commissioners (Ombudsmen),” whereby it recognized the importance of national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights in safeguarding the rights of the individual;

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that in the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the member states proclaimed the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or any other social condition;

REAFFIRMING that the member states, through appropriate measures, have recognized the universal, indivisible, and interdependent nature of all human rights and the obligation to respect and protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual;

RECALLING that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed, in paragraph 10, the right to development;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the fundamental objective of national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights is to safeguard the rights of the individual;

BEARING IN MIND the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions, “Paris Principles,” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 48/134, of December 20, 1993;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the inter-American human rights system, whose organs have competence to promote the observance of human rights in all member states of the Organization, in accordance with the commitments undertaken by each state, and which operate in a manner subsidiary to national jurisdictional systems;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that all member states have the obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, without distinguishing among the specific national and regional characteristics and the different historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds of all states, regardless of their political, economic, and cultural systems; and recognizing that democracy is a universal value and there is no single model of democracy;

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 1505 (XXVII-O/97), AG/RES. 1601 (XXVIII-O/98), and AG/RES. 1670 (XXIX-O/99), in which the General Assembly recognized the work of ombudsmen in the Hemisphere, a concept recognized in the law of member states with names such as defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners;

RECALLING ALSO the message transmitted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights through resolution 2005/74, "National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights," which, in paragraph 12, "[w]elcomes the continuation of the practice of national institutions convening regional meetings" and encourages national institutions, in cooperation with the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, "to continue to organize similar events with Governments and non-governmental organizations in their own regions";

UNDERSCORING the work done by the Caribbean Ombudsmen's Association, the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas, the Andean Council of Ombudsmen, the Central American Ombudsman Council, and the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen;

RECALLING the exhortation contained in the aforementioned resolutions that member states of the inter-American system adopt measures to ensure that the defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners enjoy political, administrative, and financial independence; and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001) as it pertains to strengthening the capacity of national institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the fundamental importance of national human rights systems for the promotion and protection of human rights in strengthening the rule of law and social justice for the consolidation of democracy.

2. To reiterate its support for the politically, administratively, and financially independent work of the ombudsmen or defenders of the people, defenders of the population, human rights attorneys, and human rights commissioners in the countries of the Hemisphere, in the promotion and protection of human rights.

3. To recommend to member states that do not yet have institutions of the kind to which this resolution refers that they consider the possibility of establishing and operating them within the framework of their legal order.

4. To encourage the governments and organs of the inter-American system to promote the establishment of forums for dialogue between the institutions of the kind to which this resolution refers and the pertinent organs of the inter-American system, in order to strengthen their contribution to the democratic order in the Hemisphere.

5. To reaffirm the support of the Organization of American States for the work of the Caribbean Ombudsmen's Association, the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas, the Andean Council of Ombudsmen, the Central American Ombudsman Council, and the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen.

6. To reiterate to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council that it consider inviting the institutions to which this resolution refers to participate in the dialogue to be held among member states on human rights issues, given that their presence is necessary.

7. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2346 (XXXVII-O/07)

SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO ERADICATE
CHILD MALNUTRITION IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its declarations AG/DEC. 31 (XXXIII-O/03) and AG/DEC. 36 (XXXIV-O/04) and its resolution AG/RES. 2171 (XXXVI-O/06);

NOTING that Article 30 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) declares that the member states, inspired by the principles of inter-American solidarity and cooperation, pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples, as conditions essential to peace and security;

RECALLING that Article 2 of the OAS Charter lists among the Organization's essential purposes the need to "eradicate extreme poverty," and that one of the manifestations of that poverty is child malnutrition, the impact of which on individual and collective well-being undermines health, education, productivity, and social cohesion, while perpetuating poverty and slowing economic and social growth;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions on this matter contained in this Plan of Action signed by the Heads of State and Government at the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALSO that in the Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion in order to raise the standard of living of their peoples and strengthen democratic governance in the Americas;

TAKING NOTE of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador," in particular its Article 12 on the "Right to Food";

RECOGNIZING the role of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) as the specialized organization of the OAS with responsibility for promoting the study of topics related to children, adolescents, and the family in the Americas;

CONSIDERING that at the United Nations Millennium Summit the Heads of State and Government adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which they committed to reducing by half the proportion of the world's people living on less than a dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, by 2015;

RECOGNIZING that notwithstanding the progress made toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, drafted as a result of that Summit, today there are still nine million children suffering from chronic malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that malnutrition affects children from vulnerable groups, including indigenous children and children of African descent, to a disproportionately greater extent than other children in the region;

CONSIDERING that school nutrition plans and programs play an important role in combating child malnutrition;

UNDERSCORING the special role of the World Food Programme (WFP), which strives to protect and assist the victims of all forms of hunger in the world and in the Hemisphere while helping to ensure that the issue of hunger is at the heart of international community concerns, and which proposes policies, strategies, and operations that directly benefit people stricken by poverty and hunger;

CONSIDERING the interest of the OAS and the World Food Programme (WFP) in strengthening their ties through the conclusion of an agreement for cooperation in the efforts of governments of the region to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, in preparation for and in response to emergency situations, with the participation of the Regional Humanitarian Volunteer Corps Network of the White Helmets Initiative, promoted by the Argentine Republic, and/or of other organizations with competence in international cooperation areas;

RECOGNIZING that vast experience has been gained in implementing plans, projects, and programs to combat malnutrition and, despite results obtained, the nutritional status of children under the age of five in the region remains a concern in many countries, requiring further targeted and cost-effective efforts to achieve sustainable progress, in the efforts by countries and international organizations aimed at eradicating child malnutrition;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the political support obtained from the following regional forums for efforts aimed at eradicating child malnutrition:

The Annual Meeting of the Central American and Dominican Republic Ministers of Health (RESSCAD XXI), held in Belize in September 2005; the Special Meeting of the Central American Integration System (SICA), held on March 9, 2006; the initiative and agreements of the Regional Technical Consultation, held in Panama in June 2006; the Annual Meeting of the Central American and Dominican Republic Ministers of Health (RESSCAD XXII), held in Guatemala in September 2006; the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB, held in Guatemala City on March 19, 2007; and the Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Region (XXVIII REMSAA), held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in March 2007; and

RECOGNIZING the importance of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Nutrition in Health and Development, of the Pan American Health Organization (resolution CD47.R8),

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states to give top priority in their poverty reduction strategies to eradication of child malnutrition in the Hemisphere, with particular emphasis on effective measures to prevent and eradicate malnutrition of children under five years of age, paying particular attention to children from vulnerable groups, including indigenous children and children of African descent, among others, and to put together a strategy to combat the lack of the micronutrients that are essential for their physical and mental development.

2. To urge those member states that have not already done so to consider joining in these efforts and supporting the actions of the states of the region most affected by child malnutrition, by facilitating, through allocation of the necessary resources, the execution of programs to eradicate child malnutrition by means of affordable and provenly reliable actions.

3. To call upon member states to continue supporting the work of national bodies dedicated to eradicating child malnutrition or, in the case of states lacking such bodies, to consider establishing such bodies.

4. To thank the World Food Programme (WFP), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for their support for this initiative; and to urge them and the rest of the international community to consider providing such cooperation as is needed to develop a plan of action and program to support and strengthen horizontal cooperation mechanisms among countries, including, *inter alia*, solidarity in emergency situations, regular exchanges of standardized technical, economic, and epidemiological information, and joint activities in nutrition-related research projects, technical assistance, human resource training, and knowledge management.

5. To request the General Secretariat to develop, in coordination with the WFP, a work plan for disseminating and reinforcing implementation of the efforts aimed at eradicating child malnutrition, that would include the organization of government conferences, as well as courses and seminars, for personnel in the areas of health, education, nutrition, and agriculture, and from other pertinent agencies in the member states.

6. To instruct the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to follow up on this resolution and to report on its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2347 (XXXVII-O/07)

INTER-AMERICAN MEETING ON THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASPECTS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF, AND ACCESS TO, DRINKING WATER

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes that a safe environment is essential to the integral development of the human being, which contributes to democracy and political stability;

BEARING IN MIND the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, as well as the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and its Plan of Implementation;

RECOGNIZING that economic development, social development, and environmental protection are interdependent pillars of sustainable development and that the eradication of poverty is a fundamental goal of sustainable development;

BEARING IN MIND that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) states that “[a]round 1.2 billion people, or almost one-fifth of the world’s population, live in areas of physical water scarcity, and 500 million people are approaching this situation”;

RECOGNIZING that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Heads of State and Government decided “[t]o halve, by the year 2015 . . . the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water”;

RECALLING that paragraph 8 of the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 recognizes that water is fundamental for life and basic for socioeconomic development and the conservation of ecosystems, and that, in this regard, its sustainable management must be promoted with a view to ensuring access to water for present and future generations, taking into account internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

RECALLING ALSO that paragraph 22 of the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 recognizes “the urgent need to evaluate the effects of climate variability and climate change on water resources, as well as to strengthen early-warning capacities for extreme climatic events”;

RECALLING FURTHER that the strategic areas of action of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006–2009) (PIDS) include the topic of water resources;

BEARING IN MIND the report of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on its 13th session (2004-2005), referring to the three subject areas of water, sanitation, and human settlements;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2006: Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty, and the Global Water Crisis; as well as the interrelatedness of water, health, sanitation, human settlements, and climate change issues;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the countries of the Hemisphere taking steps to promote education, awareness, and broader participation by the different sectors of society in the conservation and sustainable use of water resources;

NOTING the special meeting of the Permanent Council on opportunities for cooperation in the development of legal and institutional frameworks for addressing environmental challenges in the region, held on February 23, 2007;

NOTING ALSO that member states have designated national focal points on integrated management of water resources to foster cooperation, information exchange, and discussion of experiences on related topics;

BEARING IN MIND the Inter-American Dialogues on Water Management; and

CONSIDERING that resolution AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96) noted the importance of sustainable development as a conceptual framework within which the Organization of American States should work as a forum for concerted action, including technical cooperation; and authorized the Department of Sustainable Development of the General Secretariat to carry out any environmental and sustainable development mandates assigned to it,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitments undertaken in the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and in the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006–2009) (PIDS) with respect to integrated water resources management.

2. To expedite efforts, in the context of national realities and laws, to achieve the objective of halving the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, on the basis of nondiscrimination, equality, equity, solidarity, and environmental sustainability.

3. To create awareness among the different sectors of society of the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of water.

4. To promote technical cooperation to facilitate access to appropriate, low-cost, ecologically sustainable technologies for water use and supply and to strengthen the capacity of local communities to make sustainable use of water resources.

5. To instruct the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), in coordination with the General Secretariat, to convene, for the first quarter of 2008 and in connection with World Water Day, an inter-American meeting on the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the availability of, and access to, safe drinking water, with a view, *inter alia*, to:

- a. Fostering dialogue among national authorities responsible for integrated water resources management in the member states on national policies, experiences, and best practices concerning the availability of, and access to, safe drinking water; and
- b. Promoting and reinforcing bilateral and regional cooperation on integrated water resources management.

6. To instruct the General Secretariat to include on the agenda for the upcoming meeting of focal points on integrated water resources management, to be held in August 2007, the preparation of the proposed agenda for the meeting mentioned in the preceding paragraph, for consideration by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI).

7. To request CIDI to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

AG/RES. 2348 (XXXVII-O/07)

HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND
SECOND MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND:

Resolutions AG/RES. 2019 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2026 (XXXIV-O/04), AG/RES. 2118 (XXXV-O/05), and AG/RES. 2256 (XXXVI-O/06), on hemispheric efforts to combat trafficking in persons; and the conclusions and recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held on Isla Margarita, Venezuela, from March 14 to 17, 2006, which recalled “the governments’ commitment to improve their capacity to identify, investigate, prosecute, and punish those responsible for trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, and to provide due assistance and protection to the victims”; as well as the recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VI), held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from April 24 to 26, 2006;

Resolution CP/RES. 915 (1587/07), “Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade,” which urged member states to “prevent, punish and eliminate all contemporary forms of slavery”;

Resolution CP/RES. 908 (1567/06), “Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime,” whereby the Permanent Council adopted said Plan and established the Technical Group on Transnational Organized Crime;

The increase in trafficking in persons in the Hemisphere, which is a crime against humanity, as well as its economic, social, and human repercussions; and

That poverty, inequity, and social exclusion in the Hemisphere are factors that make people, especially women and children, more vulnerable to becoming victims of traffickers, who often belong to organized criminal groups operating at both domestic and transnational levels;

RECALLING:

That in the Declaration on Security in the Americas the member states condemned transnational organized crime, since it constitutes an assault on institutions in our states and negatively affects our societies; and renewed the commitment to fighting it by strengthening the domestic legal framework, the rule of law, and multilateral cooperation, respectful of the sovereignty of each state, in particular through the exchange of information, mutual legal assistance, and extradition;

The commitment assumed by the member states to improve their capacity for identifying, investigating, prosecuting, and punishing those responsible for trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, and to provide due assistance and protection to the victims, in the framework of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

That trafficking in persons violates the human rights of victims and affects society at large, can lead to the breakdown of families and communities, facilitates the growth of organized crime and other illicit activities, deprives countries of human capital and thus inhibits development, increases public health costs, and undermines observance of the law; and

The need for the states parties, as an initial step in implementing the international obligations assumed by ratifying the said Protocol, to criminalize trafficking in persons in their respective domestic legislations, in accordance with its provisions; and

RECOGNIZING:

That, in the spirit of shared responsibilities, the member states should strengthen hemispheric cooperation based on a multidisciplinary approach, which includes preventive measures, especially those aimed at discouraging demand, providing assistance to victims, and respecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

The efforts by MERCOSUR, as set out in Decision 12/06, which urged the states parties and associated states to coordinate initiatives and national campaigns aimed at informing the public and preventing the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, with a view to orchestrating a regional campaign using graphics and audiovisual aids in the framework of MERCOSUR and its associated states, and

Recognizing the recent accomplishments of the 12th Meeting of the Regional Conference on Migration, attended by deputy ministers/assistant secretaries of 11 countries of the Hemisphere, which discussed “effective cooperation in combating trafficking of persons” and adopted the “Regional Guidelines for Special Protection in Cases of the Repatriation of Child Victims of Trafficking,”

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to fight the crime of trafficking in persons, by means of a comprehensive approach that takes into account the prevention of trafficking, prosecution of its perpetrators, protection of and assistance to its victims, and respect for their human rights, as well as the strengthening of international cooperation in the area and implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and of other relevant international instruments.

2. To continue to encourage member states to take the necessary measures to implement, as appropriate, the conclusions and recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons.

3. To request the General Secretariat to:
 - a. Support the efforts to draft model legislation on trafficking in persons, fully in accordance with the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which member states can use as a reference when developing or modifying their own legislation on the subject;
 - b. Work with the member states to study cooperation mechanisms that permit the repatriation of victims of human trafficking, where applicable, pursuant to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, guaranteeing their safety and integrity;
 - c. Conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a peer review mechanism, or other appropriate process, including an information-sharing system, to study progress in the fight against human trafficking, in accordance with the efforts being made within the framework of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; and present the study to the Permanent Council, through its Committee on Hemispheric Security, for its consideration and review; and
 - d. Continue supporting the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons and review progress in the implementation of these conclusions and recommendations; and report thereon to the Permanent Council and to the Seventh Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA-VII).
4. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, acceding to, or accepting, as the case may be, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and to analyze the possibility of criminalizing in their internal legislation the offense of trafficking in persons in accordance with pertinent legal provisions; as well as to consider other initiatives and actions geared toward preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting its perpetrators, and protecting and assisting its victims.
5. To request the Permanent Council to convene for 2008, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, the Second Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons.
6. To instruct the Permanent Council, when it deems it appropriate, to request the Technical Group on Transnational Organized Crime, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, to consider the topic of inter-American cooperation in dealing with human trafficking.

7. To request the General Secretariat to take the necessary measures, as appropriate, within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources, to implement the conclusions and recommendations of the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons.

8. To request the Permanent Council to continue, through the Committee on Hemispheric Security, its consideration of this topic.

9. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

10. To instruct the Permanent Council to carry out the activities mentioned in this resolution in accordance with the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2349 (XXXVII-O/07)

WATER, HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND the obligations of the states parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with regard to human rights and water;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO the progressive realization of the rights referred to in Articles 10 and 11 of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "Protocol of San Salvador," in which the states parties recognize the right of every person to health and the right to live in a healthy environment and have access to basic public services;

BEARING IN MIND FURTHER the obligations of the states parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with respect to progressive realization of the rights recognized in its Article 11, paragraph 1, and Article 12, paragraph 1, whereby, respectively, every person has the right to an adequate standard of living for himself/herself and his/her family, and to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

NOTING General Comment No. 15 (2002) of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), entitled "The right to water (arts. 11 and 12 of the Covenant)" (United Nations document HRI/GEN/1/Rev.7, p. 106), which considers the relationship between human rights and water as a limited natural resource and a public good fundamental for life and health, indispensable for leading a life in human dignity;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of member states to achieving the internationally agreed upon objectives of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, including those agreed to in Agenda 21, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

REITERATING the commitment of member states to the decisions adopted by the 13th session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) in April 2005, on policy options and practical measures to facilitate implementation of commitments in the areas of water, sanitation, and human settlements;

TAKING NOTE of the Fourth World Water Forum, held in Mexico City, Mexico, from March 16 to 22, 2006;

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the report of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2006), which states that 50 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean lack access to safe drinking water and 125 million lack access to adequate sanitation services;

TAKING NOTE FURTHER of the decision of the 13th session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (2005), which emphasizes, *inter alia*, that:

- a. A substantial increase of resources from all sources, including domestic resources, official development assistance, and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and targets, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), and
- b. Governments have the primary role in promoting improved access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, sustainable and secure tenure, and adequate shelter, through improved governance at all levels and appropriate enabling environments and regulatory frameworks, adopting a pro-poor approach and with the active involvement of all stakeholders;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the involvement, as appropriate, of other relevant actors, including civil society and other social groups, such as women, youth, and indigenous peoples, in the planning and management of water services and in decision-making processes;

BEARING IN MIND the special meeting of the Permanent Council on opportunities for cooperation in the development of legal and institutional frameworks for addressing environmental challenges in the region, held on February 23, 2007;

RECOGNIZING that each state is responsible for formulating policies that foster and help to build capacities and cooperation at all levels to lessen the vulnerability associated with the risk of suffering natural disasters, including water-related disasters; and recalling that each state is also responsible for adopting effective measures to protect its population, infrastructure, and other national assets from the impact of natural disasters, including implementation and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters;

REITERATING the importance of regional and subregional international cooperation and of partnerships in support of these national efforts;

RECOGNIZING that water resources management should take into account the vital importance of wetland ecosystems, and underscoring, accordingly, the commitments made in the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands);

RECOGNIZING ALSO that access to safe drinking water should be provided, in accordance with the principles of nondiscrimination, equality, justice, solidarity, equity, and sustainability; and

TAKING NOTE of Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which established that “States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,”

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize and emphasize that water is essential to the life and health of all human beings and that access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation is indispensable for a life with human dignity.
2. To reaffirm the sovereign right of each state to establish rules and regulations on water use and water services in its territory.
3. To underscore that water is a natural, limited, and vulnerable resource that has economic value and that also performs an environmental, social, economic, and cultural function, and that efforts must be made to ensure that all sectors of the population have access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.
4. To recognize and respect, in accordance with national law, the ancestral use of water by urban, rural, and indigenous communities, in the framework of their habits and customs on water use, emphasizing as well the importance of this resource as an energy source.
5. To urge member states to develop government policies that envisage the participation of civil society in water resources management and in planning options for improving their drinking-water and sanitation services, with respect for the rule of law, bearing in mind, among other considerations, the needs of urban, rural, and indigenous communities, facilitating to that end access to specialized know-how and information on integrated water resources management in a democratic, transparent, and equitable manner.
6. To foster actions to address the effects of climate variability and change on water resources, the supply of safe drinking water, and sanitation, with particular emphasis on preventing risks associated with environmental management, as well as the degradation of water basins and wetlands.
7. To continue promoting, directly or through relevant international organizations, mechanisms that contribute to the improvement of water quantity and quality and to the conservation and sustainable use of transborder water resources and the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, in accordance with the domestic legal framework and applicable international law.

8. To instruct the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to establish a working group to prepare for a special meeting and to continue to take action to implement strategies and draw up hemispheric plans of action that will further access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

9. To request CIDI to present a report on this subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2350 (XXXVII-O/07)

OBLIGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES TO RESPECT THE RULES, PRINCIPLES, AND
ESSENTIAL PURPOSES CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE
AND STRENGTHEN PEACE IN THE HEMISPHERE

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that the historical, legal, and political foundations of the Organization of American States (OAS) includes the Pan American Union, which arose from the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama, convened to preserve the independence of the American republics, to promote peace and solidarity, to strengthen sovereignty, and to promote the economic, social, and cultural development of the peoples of the American Hemisphere;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolution AG/RES. 2250 (XXXVI-O/06), "Obligation of Member States to Respect the Rules and Principles of International Law Contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States, in order to Preserve and Strengthen Peace in the Hemisphere," and resolution AG/RES. 2150 (XXXV-O/05);

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly (AG/doc.4698/07 corr. 1);

REAFFIRMING the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the following principles of the OAS Charter, which include that international law is the standard of conduct of states in their reciprocal relations, that international order consists essentially of respect for the personality, sovereignty, and independence of states and the faithful fulfillment of obligations derived from treaties and other sources of international law, and that good faith shall govern relations between states;

REAFFIRMING FURTHER the essential purposes set forth in Article 2 of the OAS Charter;

RECOGNIZING that the principles set forth in the OAS Charter and in international law are foundations of the inter-American system;

NOTING Appendix 1 of the report of the special meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the principles of international law contained in the OAS Charter, held on March 22, 2007 (document CP/CAJP-2479/07), which states that "the principles are, in their interpretation and their application . . . interdependent and complementary, and they interact with each other";

EMPHASIZING the principle of cooperation and that the principle of solidarity among the American states requires the political organization of those states on the basis of the effective exercise of representative democracy; and

EMPHASIZING ALSO that every state has the right to choose, without external interference, its political, economic, and social system and to organize itself in the way best suited to it, and has the duty to abstain from intervening in the affairs of another state. Subject to the foregoing, the American states shall cooperate fully among themselves, independently of the nature of their political, economic, and social systems,

RESOLVES:

1. To appeal to member states to take into account and to observe in their inter-American relations the rules, principles, and essential purposes contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and international law, including other treaties and conventions they may adopt and any to which they are party, in particular those principles regarding the preservation and strengthening of peace in the Hemisphere.

2. To urge member states to continue their efforts to promote and disseminate these rules, principles, and purposes through courses, seminars, and forums.

3. To request that the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, keep the topic on its agenda and take into account the report on the special meeting on the principles of international law contained in the OAS Charter (CP/CAJP-2479/07).

4. To request the Secretary General to provide support for the implementation of this resolution and to present a report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

AG/RES. 2351 (XXXVII-O/07)

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PROTECTION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities,” and CP/RES. 840 (1361/03), “Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities”;

BEARING IN MIND the “Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,” and United Nations General Assembly resolutions 53/144 and 60/161;

RECOGNIZING that civil society organizations, including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), play a significant role in building free, accountable, democratic, and inclusive societies, and also constitute important actors in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that civil society organizations, including NGOs, contribute to the workings of the bodies and organizations of the inter-American system; and

CONSIDERING the relevant volumes of the annual reports of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including the Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Permanent Council to prepare and convene a special meeting to discuss best practices among member states that serve to strengthen participation of civil society organizations, including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), in the areas of human rights and democracy promotion, as well as best practices regarding the participation of civil society organizations in activities of the Organization of American States relating to human rights and democracy promotion. This meeting will include contributions by and participation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and civil society organizations, in accordance with resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99).

2. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

AG/RES. 2352 (XXXVII-O/07)

VOTE OF APPRECIATION TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States was held in the Republic of Panama from June 3 through 5, 2007, and the warm welcome extended by the people and Government of Panama;

That the delegations had an opportunity for fruitful and productive dialogue on the topic “Energy for Sustainable Development”; and

That during this regular session of the General Assembly, the delegations expressed their deep gratitude to His Excellency Samuel Lewis Navarro, First Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, for the skill with which he steered the discussions, which led to the adoption of important declarations and resolutions on high-priority issues on the hemispheric agenda,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Panama for their warm and generous hospitality and the contribution they have made to the success of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

2. To express its gratitude and congratulations to the First Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, His Excellency Samuel Lewis Navarro, for his able leadership as President of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

3. To express its appreciation and gratitude to Ambassador Arístides Royo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Panama to the OAS, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and to the members of the delegation of the Republic of Panama, whose efficiency, dedication, and professionalism contributed to the success of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

AG/RES. 2353 (XXXVII-O/07)

PROGRAM-BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR 2008,
QUOTAS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEMCIDI FOR 2008

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2007)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The proposed program-budget of the Organization of American States (OAS) for fiscal year 2008, presented by the Secretary General on March 28, 2007 (AG/CP/doc.719/07);

The report of the Preparatory Committee on the proposed program-budget of the Organization for 2008 (AG/CP/doc.734/07); and

The Annual Report of the Board of External Auditors (JAE/doc.37/07), presented to the Permanent Council on May 2, 2007;

NOTING:

That, at its thirty-first special session, the General Assembly, through resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06), approved the transitional quota scale for the OAS Regular Fund to finance the program-budget for the years 2007 and 2008; and

That in this resolution the General Assembly instructed the Permanent Council to continue its consideration of a draft methodology to determine the quotas of the member states, taking into account the criteria established in Article 55 of the OAS Charter, the results of which will determine the applicable criteria for the 2009 program-budget and for subsequent years;

CONSIDERING:

That resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06) instructed the General Secretariat to submit to the Preparatory Committee a proposed program-budget for the Regular Fund for 2008, at a level for which the Secretary General can demonstrate available financing, but not to exceed US\$81.5 million;

That, in accordance with Articles 54 and 55 of the OAS Charter, the General Assembly approves the program-budget of the Organization and establishes the basis for setting the quota that each government is to contribute to the maintenance of the Organization, taking into account the ability to pay of the respective countries and their determination to contribute in an equitable manner;

That the Organization is mandated to give preference to priorities defined by its members, within the limits of its available resources;

That, pursuant to the salary policy of parity with the United Nations established in resolution AG/RES. 1319 (XXV-O/95) and Article 40 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (General Standards), the Secretary General adjusted the General Secretariat's 2007 net basic salary scales, and increased the post adjustment for the Washington, D.C., area; and

That, in accordance with Article 60.b of the OAS Charter, the Preparatory Committee transmitted to the General Assembly a report on the proposed program-budget of the Organization for 2008 (AG/CP/doc.734/07), along with its recommendations; and

BEARING IN MIND:

That on December 14, 2005, the Secretary General issued Executive Order No. 05-13, "Restructuring of the General Secretariat," which was subsequently revised on three occasions, and of which the version in force is Executive Order No. 05-13, Rev. 3, of March 30, 2007;

That Article 120 of the OAS Charter stipulates that in selecting the personnel of the General Secretariat, first consideration shall be given to efficiency, competence, and integrity; but at the same time, in the recruitment of personnel of all ranks, importance shall be given to the necessity of obtaining as wide a geographic representation as possible;

That the Secretary General is urged to continue his work to establish policies of gender equity and equality in the workplace and to make each manager accountable for the application of these policies;

That Article 72.b of the General Standards stipulates that the amount of the Reserve Subfund shall be 30 percent of the total of the annual quotas of the member states, that this amount shall be reached through crediting to this Subfund the annual income in excess of the obligations and expenditures of the Operations Subfund, and that to the extent that the Subfund exceeds 30 percent of the total of the annual quotas of the member states, the excess shall be available for any purposes approved by the General Assembly;

That Article 90 of the General Standards sets out the required contents for the Secretary General's presentation to the Preparatory Committee of the proposed program-budget and complementary information, and that it is necessary to allow member states the time to review and analyze the budget proposal;

That in the message that the Secretary General delivered to the Preparatory Committee on March 28, 2007 (AG/CP/INF.565/07) he stressed the need to make budgetary provision for the payment of statutory cost-of-living adjustments and for inflation in the 2008 program-budget;

That the Secretary General requested that member states endorse a nominal budget of US\$87.5 million for 2008, which should be equivalent to the 2006 budget, adjusted for inflation and statutory cost-of-living adjustments applicable to 2007 (3.6%) and projected for 2008 (3.7%); and

The decision adopted by the member states at the Preparatory Committee meeting of May 3, 2007, to authorize the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters of the Preparatory Committee to consider the Secretary General's proposal for a budget ceiling for 2008 of US\$87.5 million,

RESOLVES:

I. BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

1. To approve and authorize the program-budget of the Organization for the fiscal period from January 1 through December 31, 2008, financed by the following funds at the corresponding levels:

	2008 (US\$1,000)
a. Regular Fund	87,500.0
b. Voluntary Fund	5,983.1
	<u>93,483.1</u>

2. To approve the specific levels of appropriations, by chapter, program, and subprogram, with the recommendations, instructions, or mandates as detailed below:

	2008 (US\$1,000)
1 - SECRETARY GENERAL	<u>8,574.6</u>
11A Office of the Secretary General	1,717.4
11B Department of Legal Services	1,239.2
11C Department of Planning, Control, and Evaluation	931.3
11D Department of External Relations	1,050.8
11E Department of Press and Communications	2,068.1
11F Office of Protocol	581.1
11G Summits Secretariat	986.7
2 - ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL	<u>20,153.3</u>
21A Office of the Assistant Secretary General	1,311.9
21B Office of Conferences and Meetings	5,947.2

		2008 (US\$1,000)
21C	Unprogrammed Meetings	290.5
21D	Office of Cultural Services	1,555.7
21E	Coordinating Office for the Offices and Units of the General Secretariat in the Member States	7,058.6
21F	Office of the Secretariat to the General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation, the Permanent Council, and Subsidiary Organs	1,067.1
21G	General Assembly	165.8
21H	Coordinating Office for Specialized Units	-
21I	Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)	961.5
21J	Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports	174.8
21K	Office of the Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute	1,076.1
21L	Secretariat of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission	544.1
3 -	AUTONOMOUS AND/OR DECENTRALIZED ENTITIES	<u>16,810.1</u>
31A	Inter-American Court of Human Rights	1,756.3
31B	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Its Executive Secretariat	3,621.3
31C	Secretariat of the Administrative Tribunal of the OAS	196.4
31D	Office of the Inspector General	921.3
31E	Human Development Fund Committee	8,575.8
31F	Board of External Auditors	172.8
31G	Inter-American Defense Board	1,436.2
31H	Pan American Development Foundation	130.0
4 -	DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS	<u>2,420.6</u>
41B	Office of the Director, Department of International Legal Affairs	721.3
41D	Office of International Law	1,057.3
41E	Office of Legal Cooperation	642.0

		2008 (US\$1,000)
5 -	SECRETARIAT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY	<u>3,838.3</u>
51B	Secretariat for Multidimensional Security	344.7
51C	Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)	2,136.6
51E	Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)	204.4
51F	Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security	1,152.6
6 -	SECRETARIAT FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS	<u>3,684.4</u>
61A	Secretariat for Political Affairs	1,180.8
61C	Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation	1,059.7
61D	Department of State Modernization and Governance	577.5
61E	Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions	866.4
7 -	EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT	<u>9,128.9</u>
71A	Executive Secretariat for Integral Development	2,051.7
71B	Department of Follow-up, Policies, and Programs	692.5
71C	CIDI Meetings, Ministerials, and Inter-American Committee Meetings	148.9
71D	Department of Science and Technology	1,166.5
71E	Department of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness	2,288.0
71F	Department of Sustainable Development	1,308.5
71G	Department of Social Development and Employment	681.3
71H	Department of Education and Culture	791.5
8 -	SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE	<u>10,826.9</u>
81A	Secretariat for Administration and Finance	310.3
81B	Department of Human Resources	2,058.1
81C	Department of Budgetary and Financial Services	3,087.3
81D	Department of Information and Technology Services	2,389.2

		2008 (US\$1,000)
81E	Office of Procurement Services	1,117.2
81F	Office of General Services	1,864.8
9 -	BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMON COSTS	<u>12,062.9</u>
91A	Equipment and Supplies – Computers	475.2
91B	Office Equipment and Supplies	29.1
91C	OASES System	447.4
91D	Building Management and Maintenance	5,455.8
91E	General Insurance	390.7
91F	Post Audits	19.1
91G	Recruitment and Transfers	55.2
91H	Terminations and Repatriations	1,257.8
91I	Home Leave	204.5
91J	Education and Language Allowance, Medical Examinations	66.5
91K	Pension for Retired Executives and Health and Life Insurance for Retired Employees	3,359.4
91L	Human Resources Development	297.2
91M	Contribution to the Staff Association	5.0

II. FINANCING OF THE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

1. To establish the Regular Fund budget ceiling for 2008 at US\$87.5 million.
2. To instruct the Permanent Council to convene a special session of the General Assembly, to be held no later than October 31, 2007, to determine the financing of the Regular Fund program-budget of the Organization for 2008 in accordance with the decisions taken by the General Assembly at that special session.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. BUDGETARY

1. Resource management

Human resource policies

- i. To request the Secretary General to endeavor to obtain a balanced distribution of human and material resources among the priority areas of the Organization in accordance with its four pillars: human rights, democracy, integral development, and multidimensional security.
- ii. To request the General Secretariat to assign, reassign, or restore, as the case may be and as soon as possible, the positions listed below, without incurring additional budgetary costs, and, if applicable, with personnel that possess the requisite experience, expertise, and qualifications for the performance of the respective functions:
 - a. As mandated by resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06) for budget year 2007:
 - P4 – Support for the Chair of the Permanent Council (Subprogram 21A),
 - P4 – Support for the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (Subprogram 51B)
 - b. For budget year 2008:
 - P1/P2 – Post in the CIM (Subprogram 21I)
- iii. To recognize that the General Secretariat has presented a report on the legal history of salary parity policy (CP/CAAP-2848/06 corr. 1); and to instruct the General Secretariat to submit recommendations by January 31, 2008, with regard to personnel policy and its sustainability, in light of new mandates, the recent restructuring of the General Secretariat, and the financial condition of the OAS.
- iv. Geographic representation
 - a. To urge the Secretary General to develop, with technical support from the Department of Human Resources and all individuals involved in the hiring and selection process, a human resource policy that fully takes into account the principle of geographic representation in accordance with Article 120 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and to present a report to the Permanent Council by January 31, 2008.

- b. To request the Permanent Council through the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) to convene a special meeting to consider the recommendations of the Secretary General before the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

v. Gender equity and equality

- a. To urge the Secretary General to achieve the objective of having women occupy 50 percent of posts in each grade level in the OAS organs, agencies, and entities, in particular at the P-5 grade level and above, and to attain gender balance at all levels of the OAS, bearing in mind the criterion of geographic representation.
- b. To urge the Secretary General to continue his work to continue implementing policies of gender equity and equality in the workplace and to make each supervisor and manager accountable for the application of these policies.

vi. Trust positions

- a. To extend the mandates in resolution AG/RES. 1839 (XXXI-O/01) for the Secretary General to study the General Secretariat's policy on trust positions, and for the Permanent Council to consider recommendations for any necessary changes to the General Standards.
- b. To instruct the Secretary General to submit his findings from the aforementioned study to the Permanent Council by March 1, 2008.

vii. Additional resources

To request the General Secretariat to allocate to the following, as soon as possible, the amounts listed below, without incurring additional budgetary costs:

- Subprogram 41D, Office of International Law: US\$ 20,000, for the Technical Secretariat of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities;
- Subprogram 51E, Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE): US\$ 30,000
- Subprogram 71G, Department of Social Development and Employment: US\$ 20,000, in support of participation by workers' representatives in OAS activities

2. Quotas

a. Scale of quota assessments

- i. To extend the mandate issued by the General Assembly at its thirty-first special session by way of resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06), instructing the Permanent Council to continue considering a draft methodology for assessing quotas to the member states—one that will take in account the criteria established in Article 55 of the OAS Charter and current data on the ability to pay of the member countries.
- ii. To request the group of experts convened by the Secretary General, as stipulated in resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06), to conclude, no later than September 30, 2007, its consideration of the methodology for assessing quotas to the member states and to present a proposal to the General Assembly for consideration at a special session.
- iii. To convene the General Assembly to meet in special session no later than December 14, 2007, to adopt a methodology for assessing quotas to the member states that will enter into force in 2009 and apply to subsequent years.

b. Payment of quotas

- i. To encourage member state governments to continue to pay their quotas and their arrears pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1757 (XXX-O/00), “Measures to Encourage the Timely Payment of Quotas,” as modified by resolution AG/RES. 2157 (XXXV-O/05).
- ii. To extend the mandate of the Permanent Council to evaluate the existing measures and to consider new measures aimed at encouraging the timely payment of quotas, and to complete its report thereon for the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session.

c. Regular adjustments to the quotas assessed to member states

- i. To request the General Secretariat to prepare, at the end of each fiscal period, beginning with the end of 2007, an estimate of the cost of the statutory adjustments to the salaries of the staff members of the General Secretariat that were incurred during the fiscal period as a result of the Organization’s use of “smart parity” (as reported in document CP/CAAP-2848/06 corr. 1) and as implemented by the General Secretariat in accordance with the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission, and to present a report to the Permanent Council on the relative variation between real costs

and the costs estimated in the 2008 program-budget, by no later than the start of the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

- ii. To request the Permanent Council, through the CAAP and with the support of the General Secretariat, to start, after receipt of the report referred to in the preceding paragraph, a consultation process regarding the possibility of adopting a methodology of regular adjustments to the quotas of the member states with the goal of preserving the real purchasing power of the program-budget.

3. Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States

- a. To request the General Secretariat to continue to streamline and improve the management of the Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States, and to consolidate the full range of project activities under a unified program, in order to increase their efficiency and capacity to deliver the mandates of the Organization and to ensure the attainment of the expected results.
- b. To request the General Secretariat to continue to examine the feasibility of entering into partnership agreements with other international organizations to offer services and engage in cooperative endeavors with them and to collect fees for those services; and consider alternative cooperative arrangements, such as the establishment of a network of offices with concurrent responsibilities to reinforce the quality of services to be delivered.
- c. To request the General Secretariat to submit to the Permanent Council by December 1 of each year a report containing a strategy and annual work plan for each Office. The report should comply with uniform guidelines established by the Secretary General and should report on progress made in achieving the preceding year's objectives. In addition, it should lay out the objectives for the coming year. Where appropriate, the report should address any in-country partnership opportunities that may enhance OAS objectives.

4. Establishment of a structured budget-preparation process

- a. To request the General Secretariat to implement a budget-preparation process in order to conduct, prior to the start of the discussion and approval cycle of the proposed program-budget for 2009, the necessary consultations with the department heads and the member states in order to gather and present the data and reports that may be required at the onset of the cycle of meetings of the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters and to present a preliminary budget outline to the CAAP by March 15, 2008.

- b. To remind the General Secretariat of the need to adhere strictly to the scheduled dates for presentation of the proposed program-budget and accompanying information, as required by Article 90 of the General Standards.

5. Scholarships

- a. To endorse with satisfaction resolution CP/RES. 918 (1595/07) of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), “Permanent Lifting of the Pause in the Awarding of OAS Scholarships,” adopted at their joint meeting of May 16, 2007.
- b. To authorize the General Secretariat, through the Department of Human Development, to use for both new and second-year graduate and undergraduate scholarships in 2008 and subsequent years, all appropriations approved for OAS scholarships under resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06) that have been neither obligated nor spent in 2007 as a result of the pause mandated in that resolution.
- c. To authorize the General Secretariat to deposit in the Capital Fund for OAS Fellowship, Scholarship, and Training Programs under Article 18 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) any unused or deobligated funds from scholarships under object 3 to the extent permitted under Article 99 of the General Standards, with the exception of unobligated funds in accordance with paragraph 5.b, above. In implementing this mandate, the General Secretariat shall consult with the IACD Management Board and CEPCIDI and shall report quarterly to CEPCIDI and to the Permanent Council.

6. Temporary support personnel

To adopt the amendments to Article 23 of the General Standards adopted by the Permanent Council, *ad referendum* of this session of the General Assembly, in its resolution CP/RES. 910 (1568/06), of November 9, 2006.

7. Fundraising

- a. To acknowledge the Secretary General’s efforts to centralize the coordination of fundraising activities.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare and present to the Permanent Council a comprehensive fundraising strategy for the OAS that responds to the Organization’s mandates and priorities.

- c. To instruct the General Secretariat to present a detailed report to the Permanent Council by March 15, 2008, on the amounts obtained by each dependency of the General Secretariat and by all other organs and entities financed in whole or in part by the Regular Fund. This report should cover the 12-month period ending December 31, 2007, and should include the following information:
 - i. A list of all dependencies and entities involved in fundraising efforts, including any foundations raising funds on behalf of the OAS and its programs;
 - ii. Amounts raised, both cash and in-kind;
 - iii. Sources of the funds raised; and
 - iv. A breakdown of costs incurred by the Regular Fund, in terms of personnel and other expenses, to pursue fundraising efforts and to execute programs financed by the funds raised.
- d. To consider, within the fundraising strategy, the feasibility of engaging the Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States in identifying external resources and opportunities for managing programs of other international organizations or permanent observers as a means of deriving management fees or other income-generating opportunities.
- e. To recognize the support of the permanent observers and other donors and to encourage them to continue to provide cash and in-kind contributions to the programs, projects, and other activities of the Organization.

8. Amendments to the General Standards

To request the Secretary General to submit to the Permanent Council proposals for any amendments it considers must be made to the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat; and to authorize the Permanent Council to consider them, through the CAAP, and, if necessary, to approve them *ad referendum* of the General Assembly.

9. Foundations created by the General Secretariat

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to provide to the Permanent Council, by May 1, 2008, a list of the foundations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other private entities created by the General Secretariat as of December 31, 2007.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to inform the CAAP about the General Secretariat's participation in the creation of any new foundations, NGOs, and other private entities.
- c. To request the General Secretariat to review current procedures for the effectiveness of its participation in the creation and support of foundations,

NGOs, and other such entities, and to make appropriate amendments, if necessary, to carry out oversight processes of the General Secretariat's activities with those foundations, particularly when they use the name of the OAS to raise funds, and to present a report to the Permanent Council before the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

10. Civil society organizations

To request the General Secretariat to provide a report on the foundations, civil society organizations, and other private entities that carry out projects with specific funds, and provide details on their areas of activity.

11. Travel

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to present to the Permanent Council, no later than February 29, 2008, a progress report describing the improvements made to the travel procurement process resulting from the new contractual relationship that exists between the General Secretariat and its exclusive provider of travel services, as well as the new operative procedures that this new entity follows in order to provide these services in a manner that is satisfactory and efficient, and that is consistent with the recommendations on travel made by the Board of External Auditors in its report to the Permanent Council (JAE/doc.37/07) and with the rules and regulations of the Organization.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to implement more effective enforcement mechanisms for ensuring compliance with the rule established by the Permanent Council which requires that all tickets paid for by the Regular Fund, the Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI), specific funds, and trust funds administered by the General Secretariat, be purchased in economy class, except for travel by the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and the Chair of the Permanent Council, and to report to the Permanent Council on a quarterly basis on any instances of noncompliance with those rules.
- c. To instruct any offices and units using specific funds for travel purposes to provide a record to the donor on a quarterly basis.

12. Evaluation and control of results

- a. To instruct the Secretary General to pursue efforts, for the purpose of improving the transparency and efficiency of the General Secretariat's operations, to establish appropriate planning, control, and evaluation systems that will enable the member states to follow up on budget programming and control.

- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with member states, a framework for evaluating programs and projects that responds to the mandates issued by the political bodies and the comparative advantages of the Organization, except for those financed by FEMCIDI, and to present a report to the Permanent Council.

13. Conference and meeting services

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to expand its review of the Organization's interpretation and translation services to include the whole area of conference and meeting services, and to present to the Permanent Council for consideration, through the CAAP, by January 31, 2008, a comprehensive plan that thoroughly analyzes current services and needs and makes recommendations as to the most efficient and cost-effective means of delivering these services, at headquarters and away from headquarters, taking into consideration member states' requirements and overall needs and limitations of the Organization in fulfilling its mandates.
- b. To encourage the representatives of the member states who attend and/or who preside over meetings of the Permanent Council and its subcommittees and working groups, to strictly observe the scheduled start and finishing times of the meetings, in order to maximize the use of interpretation services that are available during the meetings scheduled in the calendar of conferences, and in order to avoid paying for unused interpretation services for time periods scheduled for such meetings.

B. OTHER

14. Honoraria

To maintain the sum of US\$150 a day for the honoraria paid to members of the following bodies entitled to such payment: Administrative Tribunal, Board of External Auditors, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Inter-American Juridical Committee, and Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

15. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

To extend the budgetary authorization to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to cover payments to members of the Commission for special services, in keeping with Article 21 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, up to a maximum of US\$1,000 per month per member. This budgetary measure shall be taken without prejudice to the right to the payment of honoraria, as provided by the General Assembly in paragraph III. B. 14 of this resolution.

16. Inter-American Court of Human Rights

To extend the budgetary authorization to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to cover the payment of emoluments to judges of the Court, set in accordance with Article 17 of the Statute of the Court, up to a maximum of US\$1,000 per month per judge. This budgetary measure shall be taken without prejudice to Article 26 of the Statute of the Court and without prejudice to the right to the payment of honoraria, as provided by the General Assembly in paragraph III.B.14 of this resolution.

17. Program-budget for 2009

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to submit to the Preparatory Committee a proposed program-budget for the year 2009 with a budget ceiling of US\$87.5 million. Income shall include, *inter alia*: quota income, interest and rental income, contributions for technical supervision and administrative support from FEMCIDI and for recovery of indirect costs from trust and specific funds, and other miscellaneous income.
- b. The total expenditure for object 1 should not exceed 64.38 percent of the 2009 Regular Fund program-budget, plus any statutory increases that may be required.
- c. To reiterate that all resolutions submitted to the General Assembly that require Regular Fund financing must be accompanied by an opinion, on the availability of funds, from the CAAP or from the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly. Resolutions presented after the Preparatory Committee has completed its work may be adopted, but may not be executed, until the requisite opinion from the CAAP and reconfirmation by the Permanent Council are received.
- d. Any mandate issued by the General Assembly or by the Permanent Council *ad referendum* of the General Assembly which requires expenditure of Regular Fund resources shall not be implemented if the corresponding Regular Fund resources are not included in the program-budget, unless specific fund resources are available to pay the costs of implementing the mandate.

18. Non-application of the reimbursement requirement set forth in Article 72.b of the General Standards

As requested by the Permanent Council in resolutions CP/RES. 903 (1542/06) and CP/RES. 911 (1573/06), to dispense with the reimbursement requirement set forth in Article 72.b of the General Standards in the case of funds appropriated from the Reserve Subfund under those resolutions.

19. International Public Sector Accounting Standards

- a. To instruct the General Secretariat to begin a study regarding the viability of implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, starting with the fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2009, and in subsequent periods, and to report the General Secretariat's findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Permanent Council through the CAAP by no later than June 2008. To that end, after consideration by the Permanent Council of the CAAP's recommendations, the Permanent Council is authorized to adopt, with immediate effect, such amendments to the General Standards as may be necessary, *ad referendum* of the General Assembly.
- b. To instruct the General Secretariat to take the necessary measures to ensure that financial and budgetary reports presented to the CAAP are consistent with the guidelines provided in the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.
- c. To instruct the General Secretariat to develop an appropriate mechanism to consult on this matter with the CAAP and to report periodically on the progress of this endeavor.

20. Administrative and financial management reports

To request the General Secretariat to present its administrative and financial management reports on a quarterly basis. These reports are intended as a management guide to the strategic allocation of resources and to report on the General Secretariat's compliance with mandates of the General Assembly that address policies affecting administration and management. The reports should include, *inter alia*, the following components:

- i. A discussion and analysis of the report at the management level that summarizes the financial situation of the General Secretariat.
- ii. Detailed financial reports, including budgetary execution of the Regular Fund and the voluntary, specific, and trust funds.
- iii. Reports on other administrative aspects of the General Secretariat, such as the impact of human resource policies on geographic representation and gender equity and equality; performance evaluations of General Secretariat staff; the human resources plan; post audits; personnel funded by specific funds; activities of the Offices of the General Secretariat in the Member States; fundraising for external resources to support the activities of the Organization and other contributions to building maintenance and improvements; indirect cost recovery; performance contracts; travel expense control measures; and any others requested by the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs of the Permanent Council.

21. Real estate and fixed assets plan

To instruct the General Secretariat to develop a comprehensive plan that analyzes in detail the real estate maintenance, renovation, and management needs of the Organization and the costs they involve. The plan should take into account the physical space requirements of the General Secretariat and related bodies and provide recommendations on the most efficient use of that space. The plan should be presented to the Permanent Council before February 29, 2008.

22. Reports to the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly

To instruct the General Secretariat to present a report to the Subcommittee of Administrative and Budgetary Matters of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly showing a list of the activities undertaken in order to comply with the provisions of this resolution. This report should be presented along with the proposed program-budget for 2009 that, pursuant to Article 90 of the General Standards, must be presented at least 90 days prior to the starting date of the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

<http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2007/AG03738E.PDF>

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890. At that meeting the establishment of the International Union of American Republics was approved. The Charter of the OAS was signed in Bogotá in 1948 and entered into force in December 1951. The Charter was subsequently amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, signed in 1967, which entered into force in February 1970; by the Protocol of Cartagena de Indias, signed in 1985, which entered into force in November 1988; by the Protocol of Managua, signed in 1993, which entered into force on January 29, 1996; and by the Protocol of Washington, signed in 1992, which entered into force on September 25, 1997. The OAS currently has 35 member states. In addition, the Organization has granted permanent observer status to 59 states, as well as to the European Union.

The essential purposes of the OAS are: to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere; to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure peaceful settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of those states in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them; to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development; and to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states.

The Organization of American States accomplishes its purposes by means of: the General Assembly; the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; the Councils (the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development); the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the General Secretariat; the specialized conferences; the specialized organizations; and other entities established by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly holds a regular session once a year. Under special circumstances it meets in special session. The Meeting of Consultation is convened to consider urgent matters of common interest and to serve as Organ of Consultation under the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty), the main instrument for joint action in the event of aggression. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of such matters as are entrusted to it by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation and implements the decisions of both organs when their implementation has not been assigned to any other body; it monitors the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and the observance of the standards governing General Secretariat operations; and it also acts provisionally as Organ of Consultation under the Rio Treaty. The General Secretariat is the central and permanent organ of the OAS. The headquarters of both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat are in Washington, D.C.

MEMBER STATES: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas (*Commonwealth of*), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica (*Commonwealth of*), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

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